SCOUT

BOOK 2

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LONG LOST

PART TWO

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LONG LOST

PART TWO

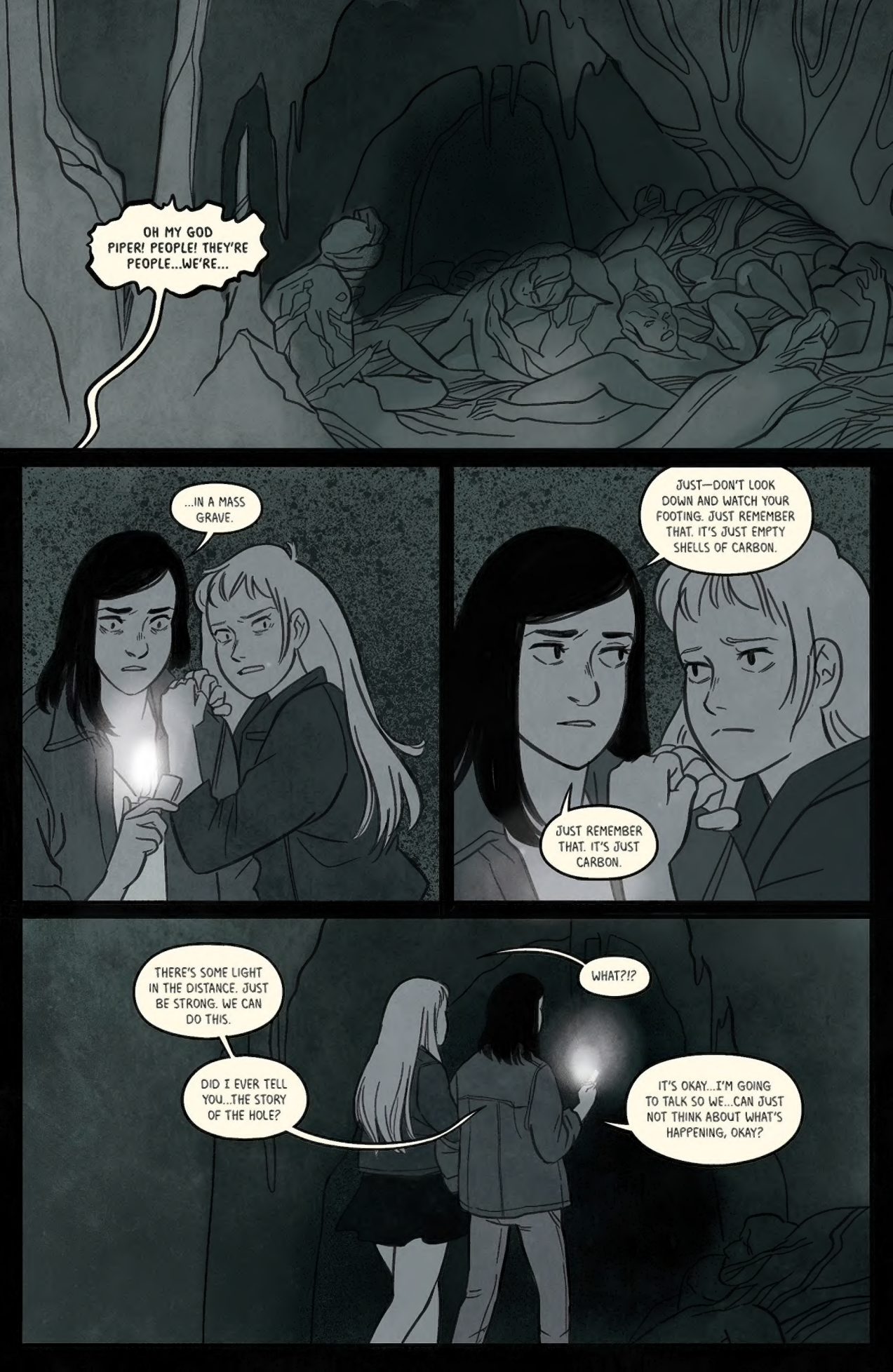
Matthew ERMAN • Lisa STERLE

CHAPTER
ONE

AFTER YEARS AWAY FROM EACH OTHER, FRANCES AND I CAME BACK TO THE PLACE WE ONCE CALLED HOME, HAZEL PATCH. WE WERE SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS. I GUESS...
TO WHY WE WERE ASKED HERE, WERE SUMMONED BY THAT...CREATURE. WE DIDN'T FIND ANSWERS TO OUR PROBLEMS. INSTEAD, WE FOUND SOMETHING HORRIBLE THAT'S BEEN WRITHING THROUGH THE TOWN, LITERALLY. WE WERE ATTACKED IN THE WOODS...WE SAW SOMEONE DIE IN THIS DINGY DINER.
WE...WERE PLUCKED FROM REALITY AND SAILED WITH A STRANGE BEING TO OUR OLD HOME THROUGH A VAST AND ENDLESS SEA, WHERE THE MEMORIES OF OUR CHILDHOOD CRASHED LIKE WAVES ON THAT STRANGE SHORE. YES, AS KIDS WE WERE HUNTED IN THE NIGHT BY OUR SICK MOTHER BEFORE SHE WAS CAUGHT BY THE POLICE AND TAKEN AWAY. OUR FATHER...
NOW, AFTER FALLING INTO AN IMPOSSIBLE HOLE GROWING IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR HOME, WE'RE FULL OF QUESTIONS, WITHOUT ANSWERS AND WITHOUT A WAY FORWARD....

1
THE GREAT WAVES
THUD
THUD

UHHHGGGH...FRAN—FRANCES? WH-WHERE ARE YOU?
FRANCES?!
I'M OVER HERE! I'M OKAY.
WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE WE...? IT'S LIKE...MUDDY. I CAN'T SEE. I DON'T LIKE THIS, PIPER.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON AND I OFFICIALLY WANT TO LEAVE.
I THINK WE'RE BENEATH THE HOUSE?
BUT WE FELL FROM THE **SECOND STORY**, WE SHOULD BE ON THE FIRST FLOOR, BUT WE WOUND UP IN A DANK OL' **PIT**.
BUT...I GUESS THAT MAKES AS ABOUT AS MUCH SENSE AS ANYTHING ELSE I CAN THINK OF...


OH MY GOD PIPER! PEOPLE! THEY'RE PEOPLE...WE'RE...
...IN A MASS GRAVE.
JUST—DON'T LOOK DOWN AND WATCH YOUR FOOTING. JUST REMEMBER THAT. IT'S JUST EMPTY SHELLS OF CARBON.
JUST REMEMBER THAT. IT'S JUST CARBON.
THERE'S SOME LIGHT IN THE DISTANCE. JUST BE STRONG. WE CAN DO THIS.
DID I EVER TELL YOU...THE STORY OF THE HOLE?
WHAT?!?
IT'S OKAY...I'M GOING TO TALK SO WE...CAN JUST NOT THINK ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING, OKAY?

WELL, THERE WAS A BIG DARK HOLE AND NO ONE KNEW WHERE IT WENT, KIND OF LIKE THIS HOLE BUT...
CAN WE NOT TALK ABOUT HOLES RIGHT NOW?
I...I...JUST CAN I GET A STORY ABOUT A MOUSE, PLEASE?
OKAY...OKAY...UHH... A MOUSE FALLS FROM AN OWL'S MOUTH AND A STORYTELLER FINDS HER BUT DOES NOT PICK HER UP. VERY SAD.
INSTEAD, A COW DOES AND THIS COW HAPPENS TO KNOW A SORCERER.
THIS SORCERER TRANSFORMS OUR MOUSE INTO A LOVELY MAID...
...AND SHE GROWS UP AS A MAID, AND UHH...
GO ON...
HMMM...I FORGET THE REST ACTUALLY BUT IT IS REALLY OLD AND A LITTLE RACIST IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY.
I DON'T KNOW ANY MORE STORIES. I REALLY AM NOT A GREAT BIG SISTER.
IT'S OKAY... LET'S JUST HURRY.
GGGRRRMMM
GGGRRUUUMMBLE

TURN. FACE. MEEEE.
WHAT. CREATURE. DISTURBS. MY REST.
SPEAK. OR BECOME VOID.
OH...MY... GOD.
WE'RE...DAUGHTERS OF J-J-JUNE LAU—

DAUGHTERS OF THE DEEP DIVER.
THIS...IS WHAT HAS POISONED US...
SECRETS BENEATH OUR FLESH.
THAT...WITCH. I CAN SEE HER DREAMING.
DREAMING. DEEP. LONGING. ALONE.
DREAMING...
OF YOU.

SHE. FED. ON. OUR. BODIES.
STOLE THEM!
STOLE THEM!
OUR BODIES!
KKRACKOOown
SHE.
ATE.
US.
IT. IS. OVER. WE. ARE. ALL. DEAD. WE. ARE.
DEAD.
KKRABOOOM!

AAARRHHH
AAARGGRUNT
GRUNT
WE *HUFF* CAN'T *HUFF* OUTRUN IT!

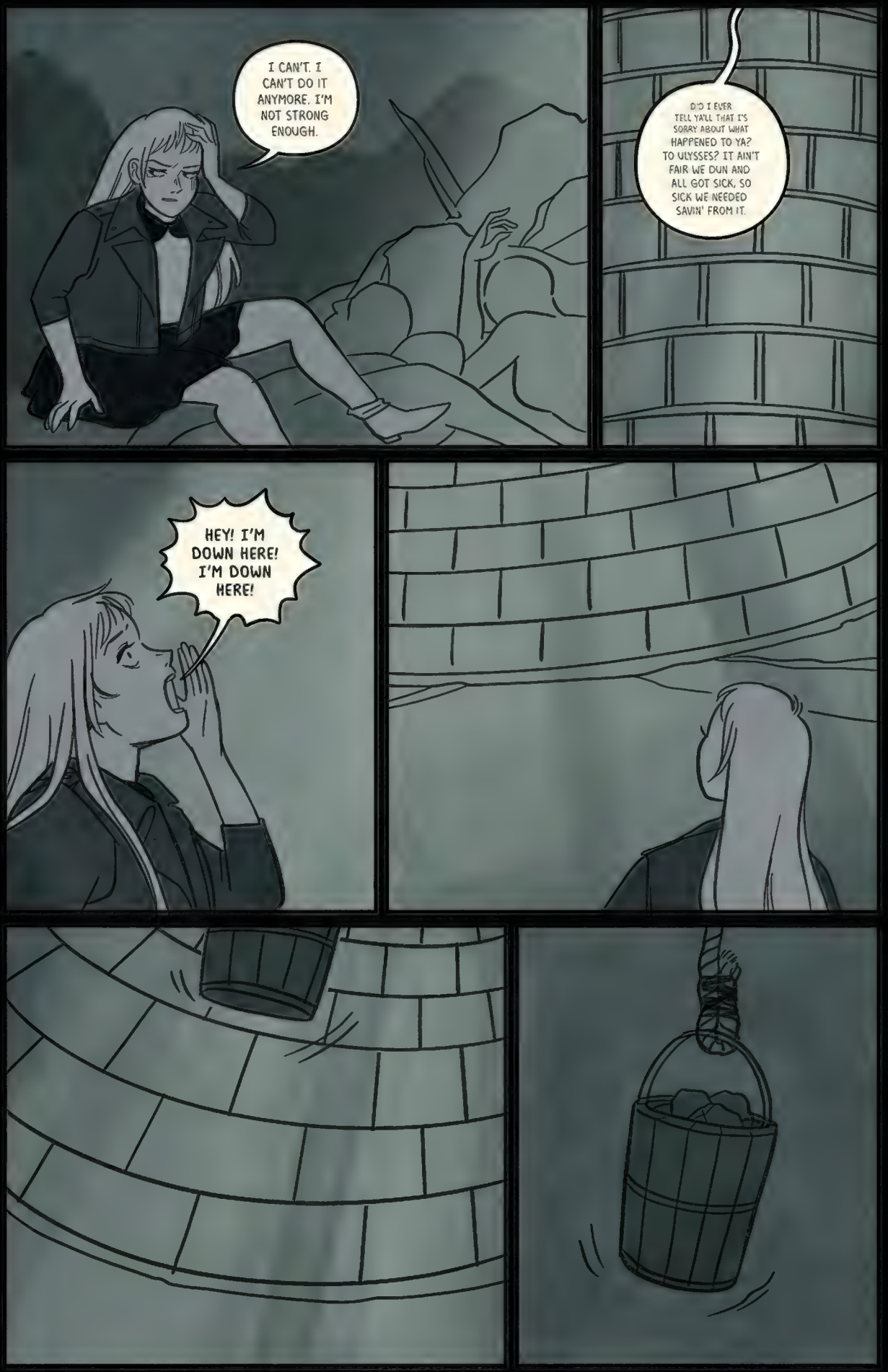
HUFF
HUFF
WE HAVE TO SPLIT UP *HUFF* I...AM FASTER THAN YOU *HUFF* I'LL LEAD IT AWAY.
NO! IT'S GOING TO GET YOU! YOU CAN'T!
I CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW...YOU'RE SLOWING US BOTH DOWN!
NO!
THE. THREE. HOODS.
WILL. COME. FOR. YOU.
BOTH. MUST. DIE.
JUST GO! FIND JODY AND JOANNA!
TELL THEM WHAT HAS HAPPENED!

♪ "THE WORLD IS GONE. DID YOU KNOW IT WOULD LAST THIS LONG?" ♫
♫ "YOU MADE IT TO THE DARK, NOW YOU'RE GONE. YOU ARE GONE."
!
"GREAT WAVES FROZEN IN A SECRET SPACE." ♪
♪ "A GREAT BIG PLACE, DARK-SPILLING UNIVERSE." ♫
♪ LAST BOAT, STAND IN THE RIVER."

CRASH
DEAD.
DEAD.
DEAD.

DAMN IT! IT'S A DEAD END. THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING HERE.. SOMETHING TO...
OH! THERE'S A TUNNEL LEADING UP! WAIT...IS THAT....
OH MY GOD! IT'S THE WELL! IT'S CAULDER'S WELL!
WELL, NOW WHAT?

IF I...JUST STAND...ON THIS ROCK...I CAN MAYBE REACH.
PLEASE DON'T FALL INTO THE PILE OF DEAD BODIES, GIRL, YOU DON'T WANT THAT TRAUMA.
OH MY GOD. I'M DOING IT. I'M DOING IT.
CR
CR
CR
CRUMBLE
AAAHHH!


I CAN'T. I CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE. I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH.
DID I EVER TELL YA'LL THAT I'S SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YA? TO ULYSSES? IT AIN'T FAIR WE DUN AND ALL GOT SICK, SO SICK WE NEEDED SAVIN' FROM IT.
HEY! I'M DOWN HERE! I'M DOWN HERE!

HEL *COUGH COUGH* HELP ME! *COUGH*
...UHHMMMM.
FRAN...CES... DON'T YOU... RECOGNIZE ME?
IT'S ME. RHETT.

WHERE'D YOUR SISTER GO? WHERE'S YOUR DAMN SISTER!?
YOU...DON'T RECOGNIZE ME. WE THOUGHT YOU WERE...
I...I...DON'T— THIS THING CHASED US...IN THE TUNNELS. WE SPLIT.
AH FUCKIN' SHIT!
Y'ALL NEED TO GO FIND HER RIGHT THE FUCK NOW! GO ON! GO! WE GUN' TAKE CARE OF THIS.
YOU SAW SOME SHIT YOU AIN'T SUPPOSED TO SEE. YOU KNOW. YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO KNOW.
OH, RHETT...I JUST DON'T KNOW—BUT SHE AIN'T GONNA BE HAPPY... AIN'T NOBODY SUPPOSED TO KNOW. WE GOT JUST...TO PUT HER BACK WHERE WE FOUND HERE.
NO! STOP! GET AWAY!
PLEASE, FORGIVE ME... MY BODY MAY BE A PRISON BUT I AM STILL ME...
SORRY, GIRL... BUT TO THE MOUNTAIN I'VE SWORN. DROP HER.
I HOPE I SEE YOU AGAIN, FRAN...CES. I WILL PRAY TO THE MOUN-TAIN FOR YOU.
PUT ME DOWN! NO! NO! DON'T PUT ME BACK THERE!

BAM
FRANCES! OVER HERE. C'MON!
STUPID FUCKIN' TREACHEROUS BITCH!
SHE'S MINE! BACK OFF!

AAAAAAHH!!!

I...
I...I...
I...
MY BABY! MY BABY GIRL!
OH MY GOD. MY BABY. I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONE FOREVER. I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
BABYDOLL... YOU'VE BEEN MISSING FOR THREE YEARS.
IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE I SEEN YOU.

WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE ...IT ISN'T SAFE. CAN YOU WALK?
FRANCES?
IT'S OKAY, HUN. I'M HERE NOW. I'M HERE NOW.
EVERYTHING'S FINE.
crk
ssss

sqqshhh

thhwww

sqqvvishhh

thwww

ssllissshh

sshhSShhssll

PIPER. MY BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER.

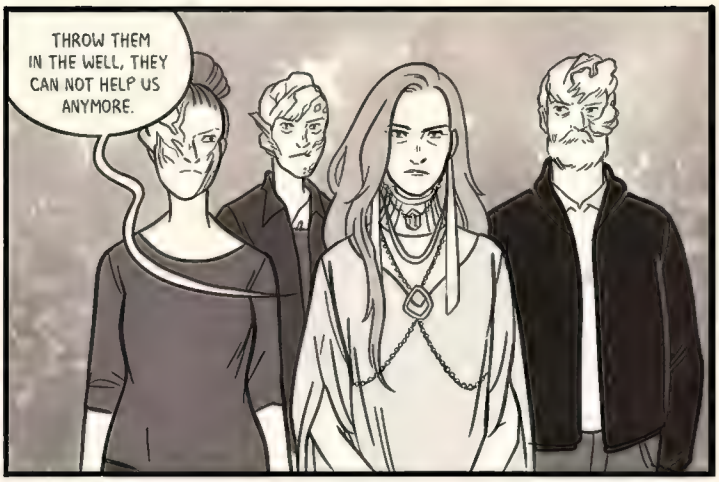
CHAPTER
TWO

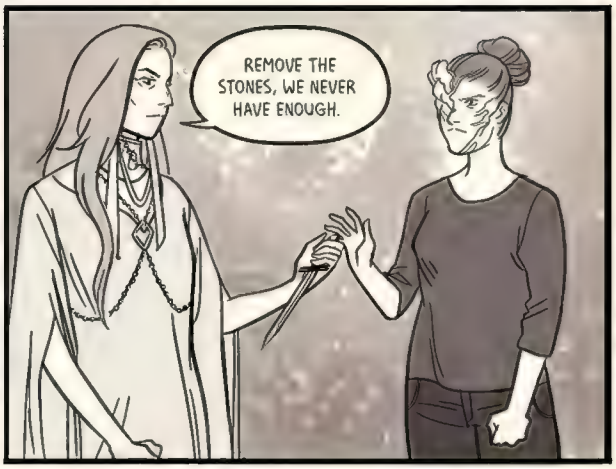
FRANCES, FRANCES— I NEED YOU TO TALK TO ME NOW, OKAY? I NEED SOMETHING FROM YOU? WHERE IS PIPER? CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE PIPER IS?
SHE...SHE...SHE...WE WERE ATTACKED. IN THE TUNNEL...THIS THING... THERE WERE SO MANY PEOPLE, JODY. SO MANY PEOPLE WERE DOWN THERE. UNDERNEATH...
SHE WASN'T LYING... IT'S REAL... SHE TOLD US 'BOUT THAT PLACE. WHERE THE BODIES ARE. UNDERNEATH. THOSE SHE COULDN'T CURE. WE FIGURED IT WAS JUST SOME KINDA STORY, WHERE THE OTHERS SLEEP.
I'M SORRY FOR WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH.
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T PROTECT YOU.

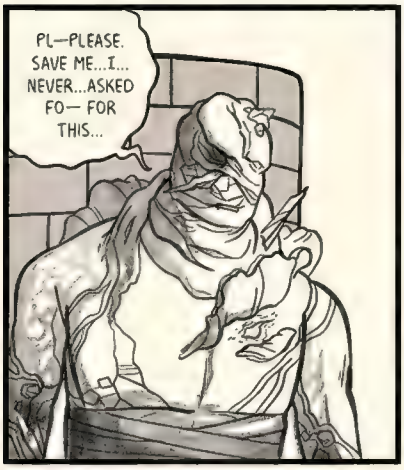
JODY...
...I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM.
IT'S OKAY. IT'S OKAY.
WHERE AM I? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
YOU'RE HOME... YOU'RE IN HAZEL PATCH. WITHOUT YOU AND PIPER... I WOULDA GAVE UP A LONG TIME AGO. SO WE HAFTA FIND YOUR SISTER.
NO TRESPASSING VIOLATORS WILL BE SHOT ON SIGHT

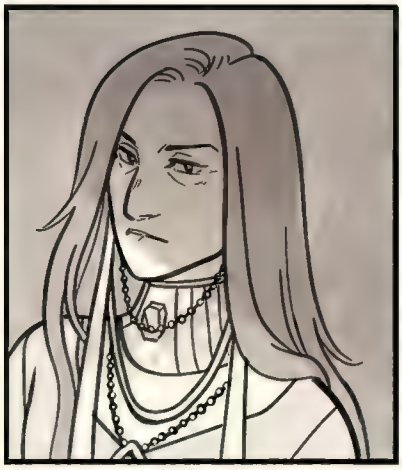
GODDAMN KNIFE... CAN'T HARDLY CLOSE MY DAMN HAND NOW. YOUCH.
I'VE SEEN WORSE THOUGH ...FAR WORSE ESPECIALLY LATELY...
AIN'T NOTHIN' SOME WHISKEY CAN'T FIX. HEH HEH... WHICH LUCKY FOR BOTH OF US I'VE GOT PLENTY BACK AT THE HOUSE.
J-JODY...?
WHY DID YOU SAY IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS?
WHAT DID YOU MEAN? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
YOU DISAPPEARED IN THE WOODS, FRANCES. THAT WAS IT. YOU AND PIPER HAVE BEEN GONE FOR THREE YEARS. I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE HERE. YOU'RE ALIVE AND OKAY.
THAT'S — IMPOSSIBLE, JODY. YOU'RE WRONG.
IT HASN'T BEEN THREE YEARS. THERE'S NO WAY.

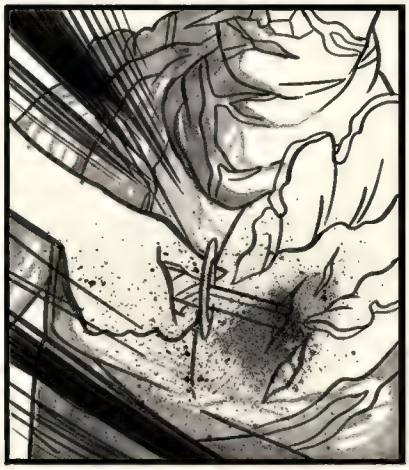
2 THE FLOWER CALLED NOWHERE

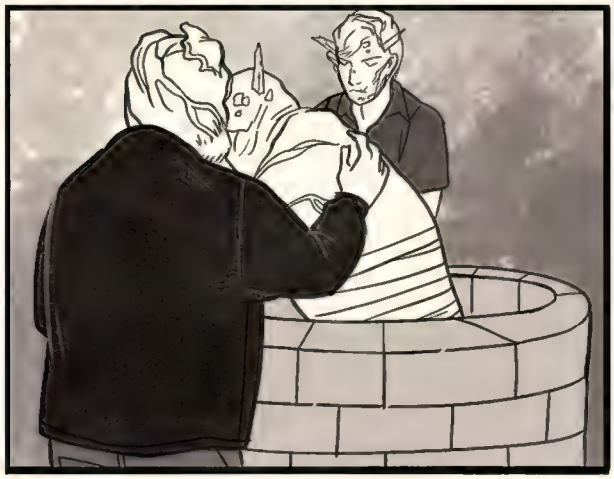

THROW THEM IN THE WELL, THEY CAN NOT HELP US ANYMORE.


REMOVE THE STONES, WE NEVER HAVE ENOUGH.


PL—PLEASE. SAVE ME...I... NEVER...ASKED FO— FOR THIS...







THIS HAS BEEN MY GIFT TO YOU ALL. TO WITNESS THE POWER OF BELIEF IN SOMETHING BEYOND US.
I AM NO GOD OR PROPHET. I'M JUST A VESSEL FOR YOUR WELLNESS.
A DELIVERER.
I BROUGHT YOU THIS HEALTH TO START A FAMILY WITH YOU ALL.
BELONGING.
SOMETHING NONE OF US HAS EVER HAD. AND... WE'VE MADE SO MANY SACRIFICES. WE HAVE.
THEY'VE BEEN PAINFUL BUT YOUR BELIEF IN ME WILL DELIVER US TO THE MOUNTAIN.
THE BRIDGE BETWEEN EVERYTHING.
NOW AND FOREVER, WE WILL BE OF PURE GOODNESS.
I ALONE CAN SHEPHERD YOU.
YEH-HAH-SHU-AH! YEH-HAH-SHU-AH!
YEHHOH-VAH-SHAH! YEHHOH-VAH-SHAH!

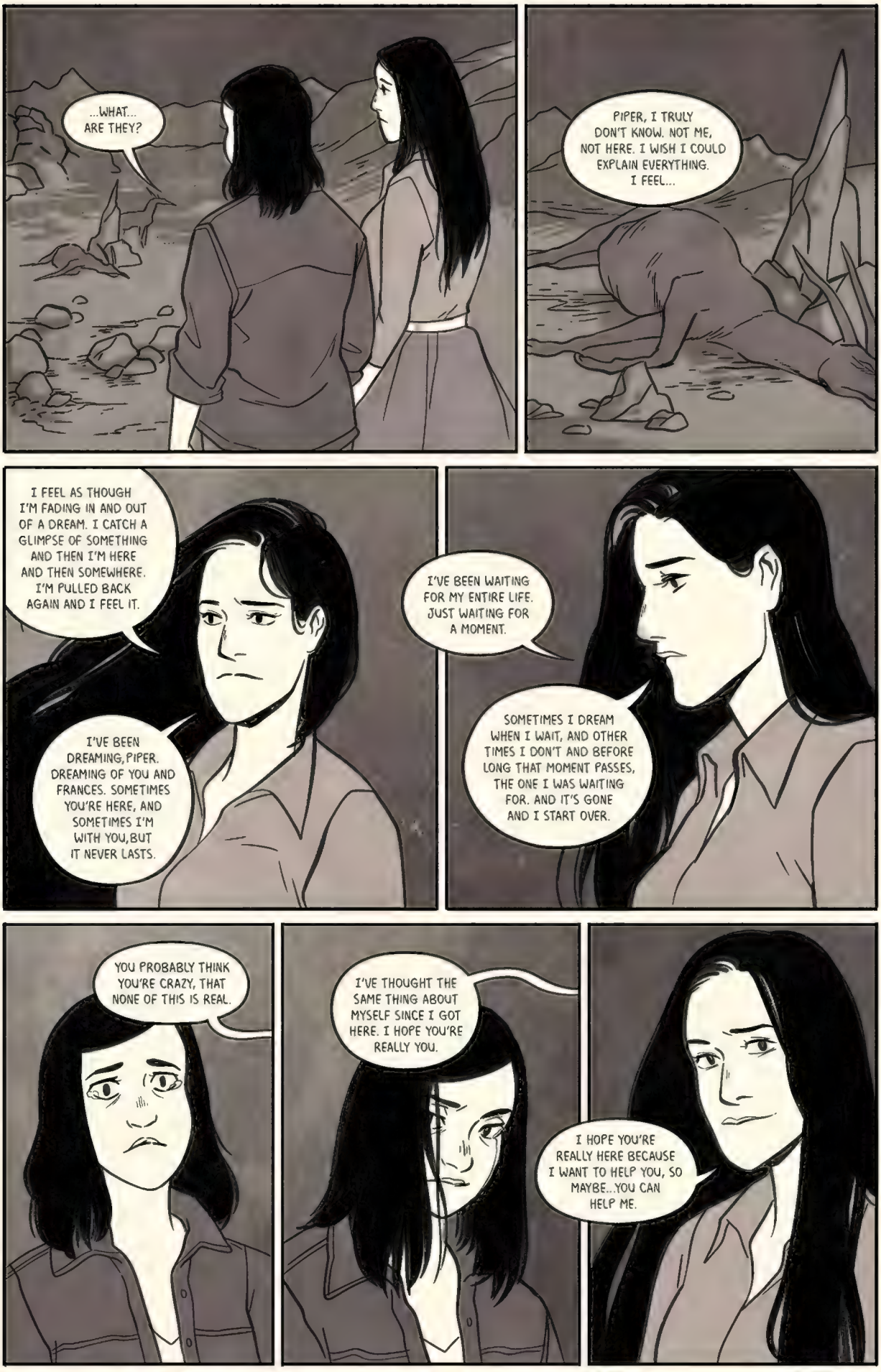
I'VE FELT THEIR FLOWER. THE THREE HOODS.
THEY KNOW WHAT MY INTENTIONS ARE — IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY ARRIVE.
WHERE EVER DID YOU GO, MY DEAR PIPER?

PLEASE DON'T RUN.
NO! OH GOD!
NO! WHAT... THIS ISN'T REAL.
THIS ISN'T REAL!
THIS IS A NIGHTMARE!
PIPER! MY DAUGHTER! DON'T RUN!
HUFF *HUFF*

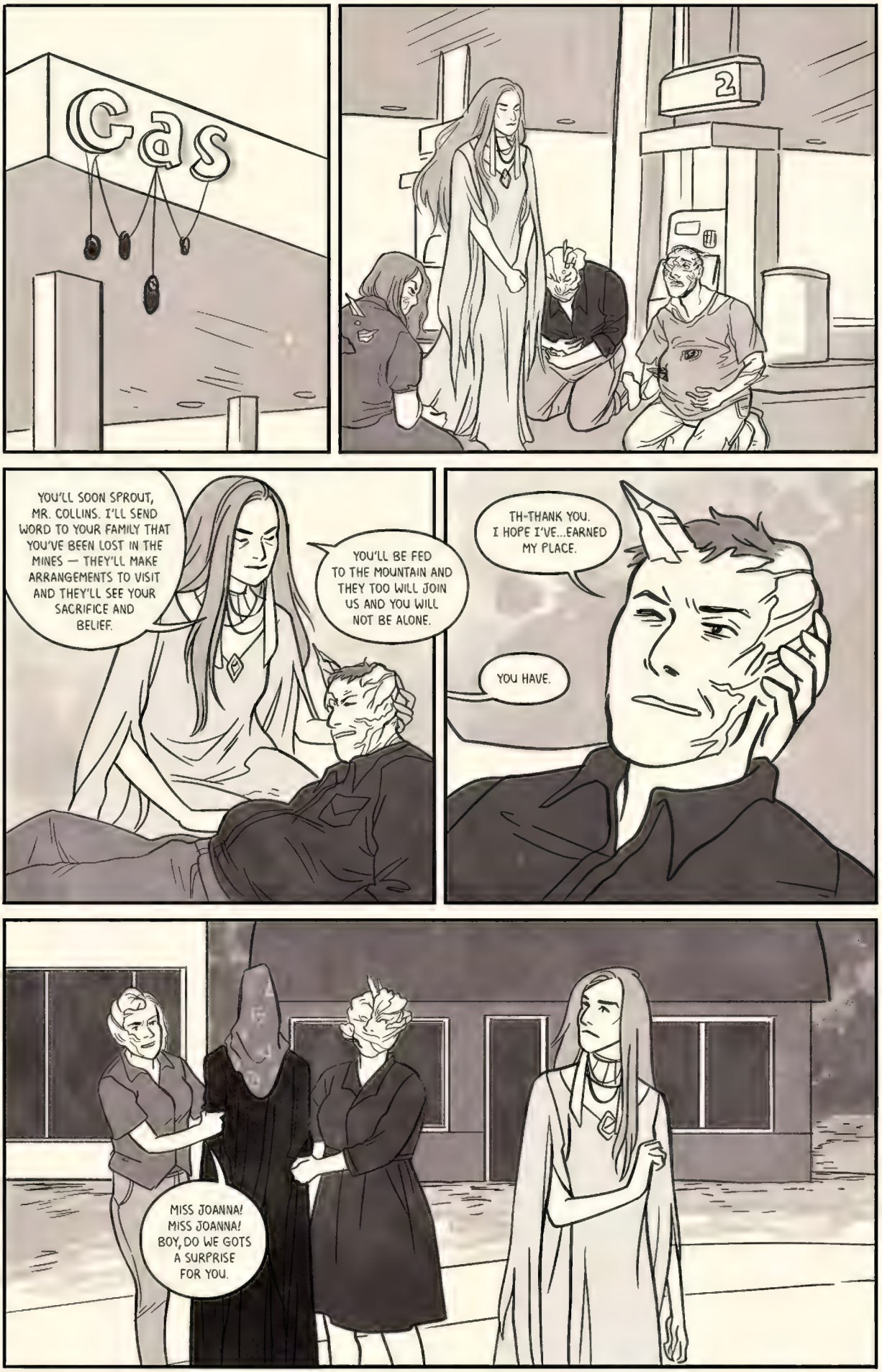
OH GOD!
AAAAAHHH!
YOU MUST BE CONFUSED. PROBABLY TERRIFIED. I WAS TOO.
I WOKE UP HERE A LONG TIME AGO AND I...DON'T HAVE ANY ANSWERS SADLY, EXCEPT WHAT THEY CALL THIS PLACE.
THE SOUND.
IT'S GOT A CERTAIN QUIET TO IT. YOU PROBABLY HEAR IT LIKE I HEAR IT. IT'S LIKE LISTENING TO WARMTH OR SUNLIGHT.

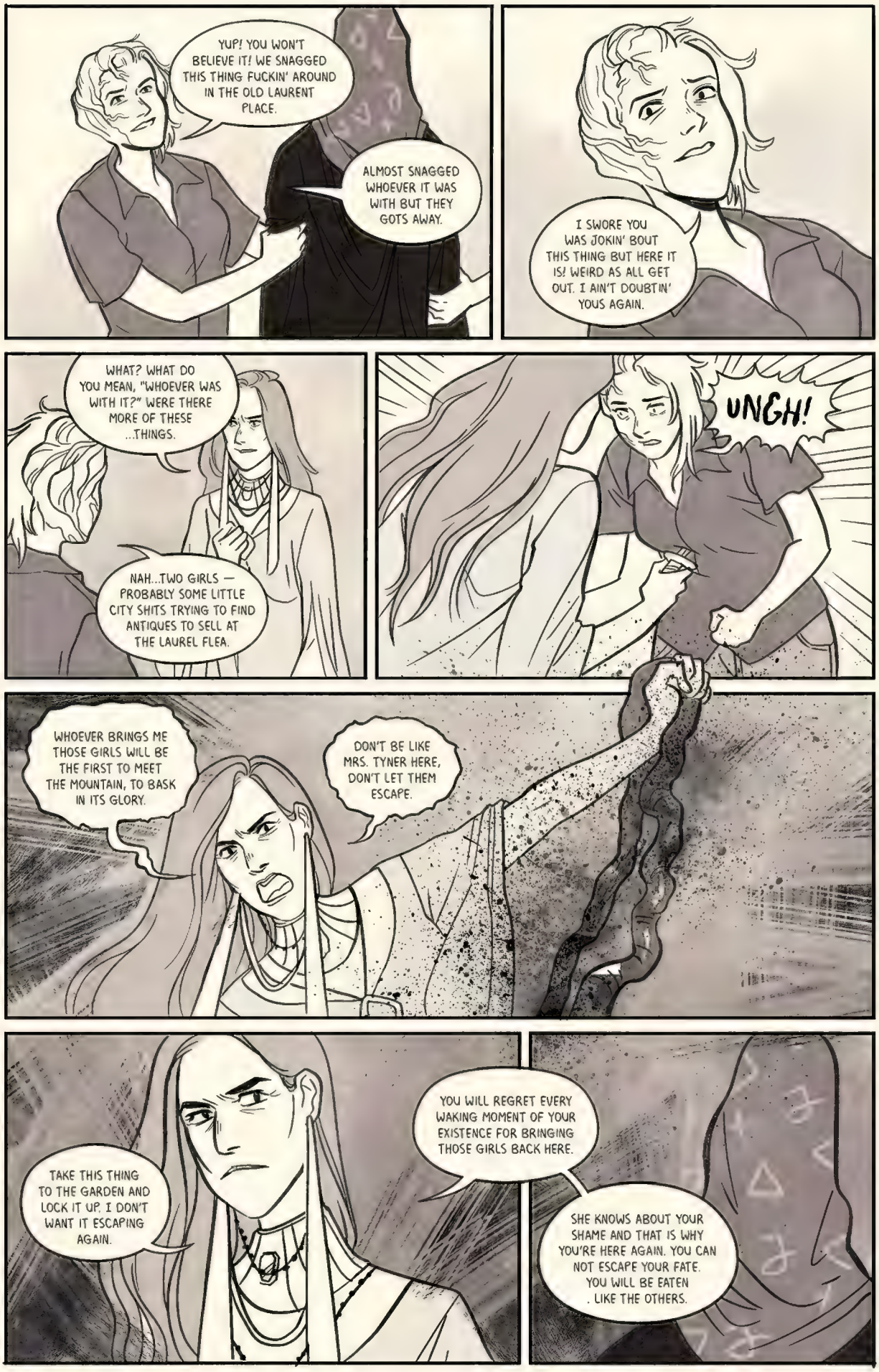
I'VE SEEN THAT SAME THING HAPPEN SO MANY TIMES I'VE LOST COUNT...
OH LORD, IS IT STRANGE FOR YOU TO BE HERE. SO STRANGE.
PIPER, I'M NOT REALLY YOUR MOTHER. I'M JUST...A MOMENT THAT HAPPENS TO EXIST HERE.
AT THIS TIME. I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT. I WOKE UP HERE. A LONG TIME AGO. I REMEMBER YOU AND...
MY GIRLS...BUT YOU AREN'T MINE, BECAUSE I AM NOT ME. SO...SAVE WHATEVER YOU'VE GOT BECAUSE IT'LL BE WASTED HERE. ON ME. JUST...TRY TO ENJOY THIS. I SUPPOSE.
SO! WHAT DO YOU SAY? YOU WANT TO GET MOVIN'? WE'VE GOT A WAYS TO GO TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE AND IT ISN'T GOING TO BE FUN.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

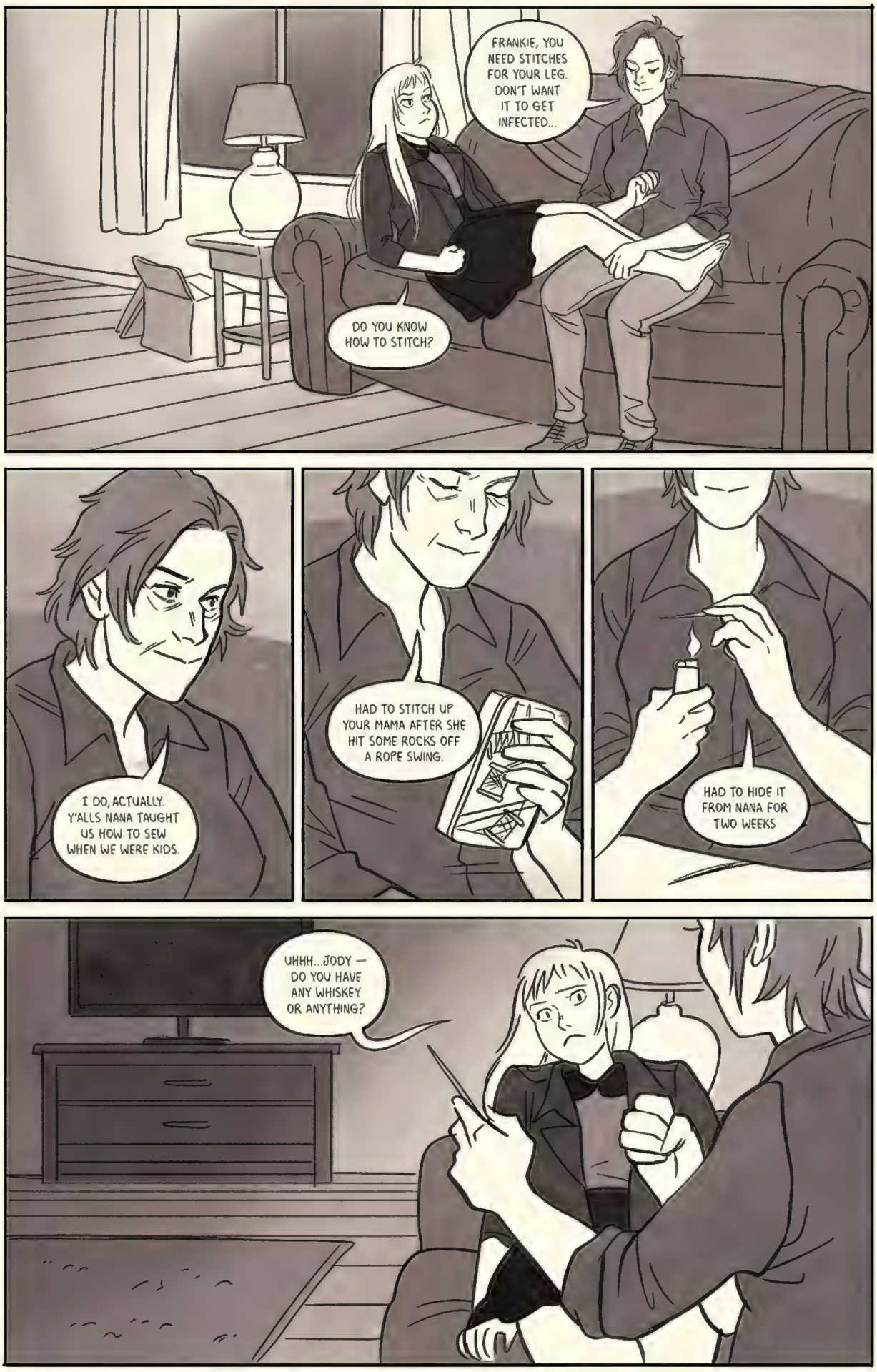
I TOLD YOU. I'M JUST A MOMENT...
YOU DON'T THINK I'VE TRIED THAT ALREADY? I'M HERE FOR AS LONG AS THERE WILL BE SPACE AND TIME.
I'VE TRIED TO LEAVE BUT I'M BROUGHT BACK. I'VE TRIED TO DIE BUT I LIVE.
I'VE TRIED TO EXPLORE BUT THERE IS NOTHING. I WILL NEVER LEAVE OR CEASE.
I SIMPLY AM AND RIGHT NOW, I'M YOUR MOTHER.
NOW CAN WE GET GOING? IT'S A WALK TO WHERE WE NEED TO GO.
IT IS HER. AS MUCH AS I CAN FIGURE. AS SIMILAR TO MY MEMORIES OF HER.
SHE IS A PHOTOGRAPH OF SOMETHING I'VE HAD. SHE IS LIKE I REMEMBER FROM BEFORE EVERYTHING.
I...CAN'T BEAR THIS. I THINK I'VE GONE INSANE. I THINK THIS IS IT. I AM NOT—
SO...
I KNOW THIS MUST BE STRANGE FOR YOU... I'VE HAD A LONG TIME TO GET ACCUSTOMED TO ALL THIS.
I'M GOING TO NEED A MINUTE...THIS IS...HARD TO DEAL WITH.
I'M SURE.

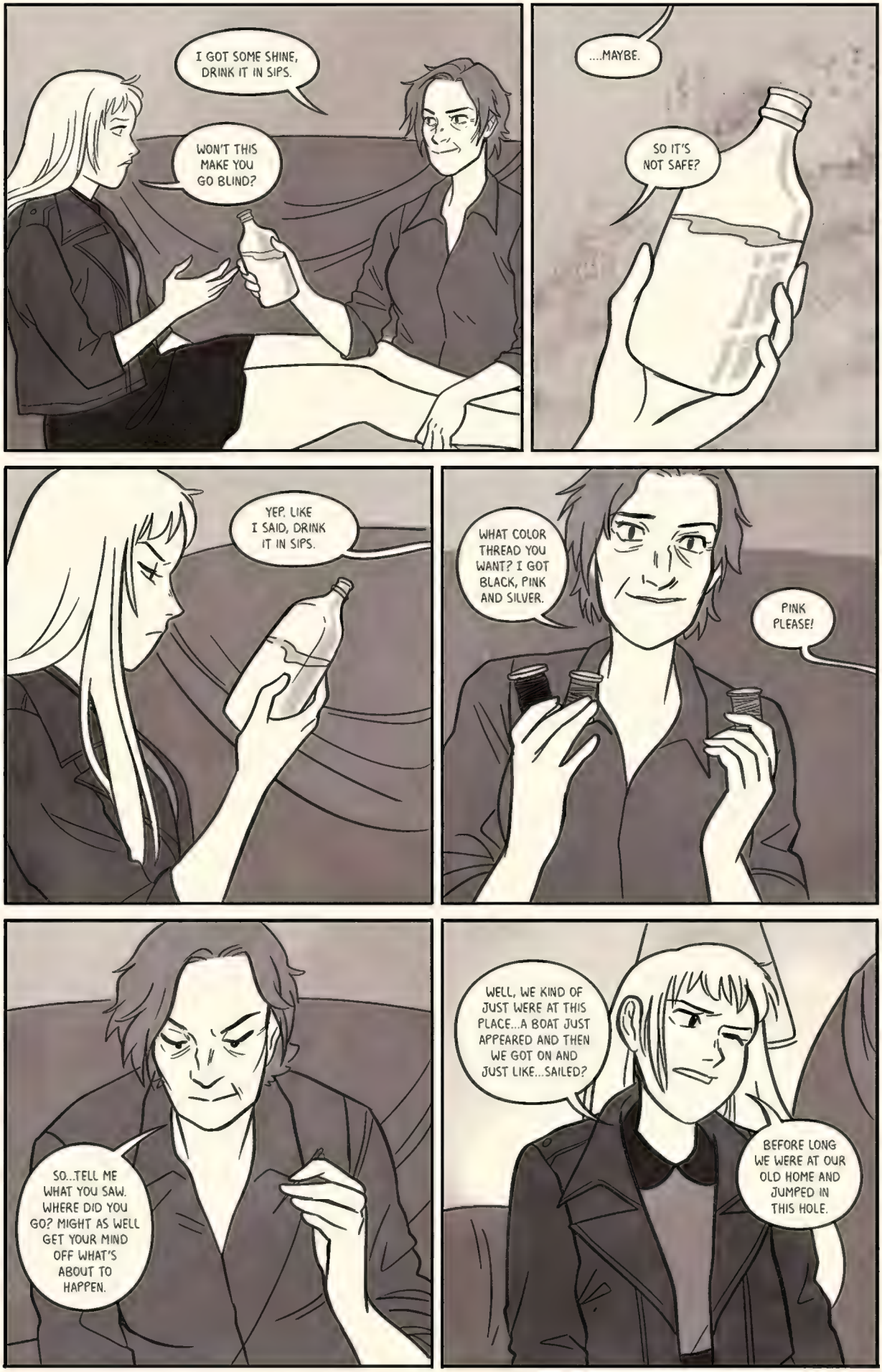

...WHAT... ARE THEY?
PIPER, I TRULY DON'T KNOW. NOT ME, NOT HERE. I WISH I COULD EXPLAIN EVERYTHING. I FEEL...
I FEEL AS THOUGH I'M FADING IN AND OUT OF A DREAM. I CATCH A GLIMPSE OF SOMETHING AND THEN I'M HERE AND THEN SOMEWHERE. I'M PULLED BACK AGAIN AND I FEEL IT.
I'VE BEEN DREAMING, PIPER. DREAMING OF YOU AND FRANCES. SOMETIMES YOU'RE HERE, AND SOMETIMES I'M WITH YOU, BUT IT NEVER LASTS.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR MY ENTIRE LIFE. JUST WAITING FOR A MOMENT.
SOMETIMES I DREAM WHEN I WAIT, AND OTHER TIMES I DON'T AND BEFORE LONG THAT MOMENT PASSES, THE ONE I WAS WAITING FOR. AND IT'S GONE AND I START OVER.
YOU PROBABLY THINK YOU'RE CRAZY, THAT NONE OF THIS IS REAL.
I'VE THOUGHT THE SAME THING ABOUT MYSELF SINCE I GOT HERE. I HOPE YOU'RE REALLY YOU.
I HOPE YOU'RE REALLY HERE BECAUSE I WANT TO HELP YOU, SO MAYBE...YOU CAN HELP ME.

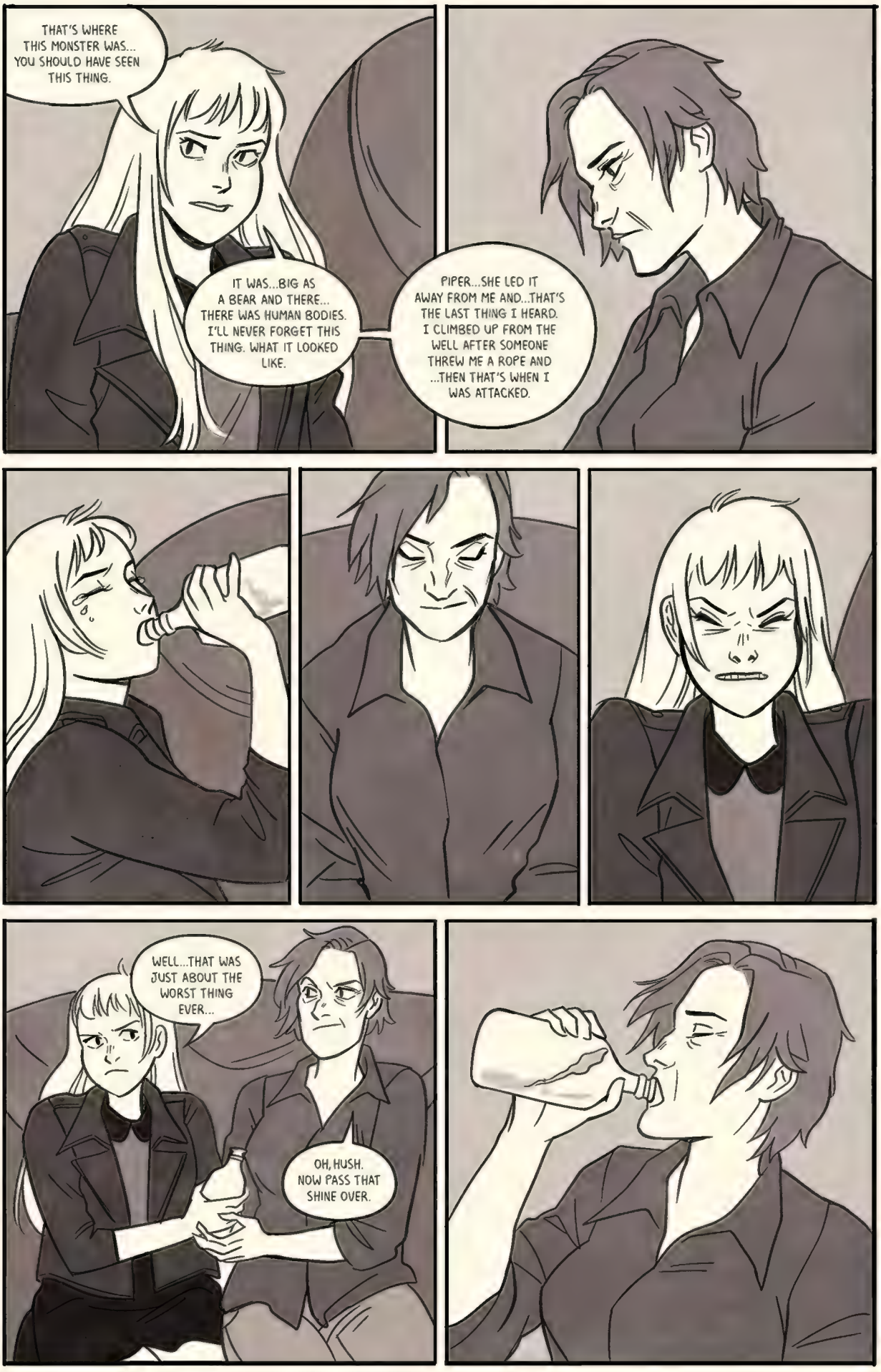
MOM...?
WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT?
...PIPER. MY BABY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING EXCEPT THAT THIS IS REAL. EVERYTHING IS REAL.

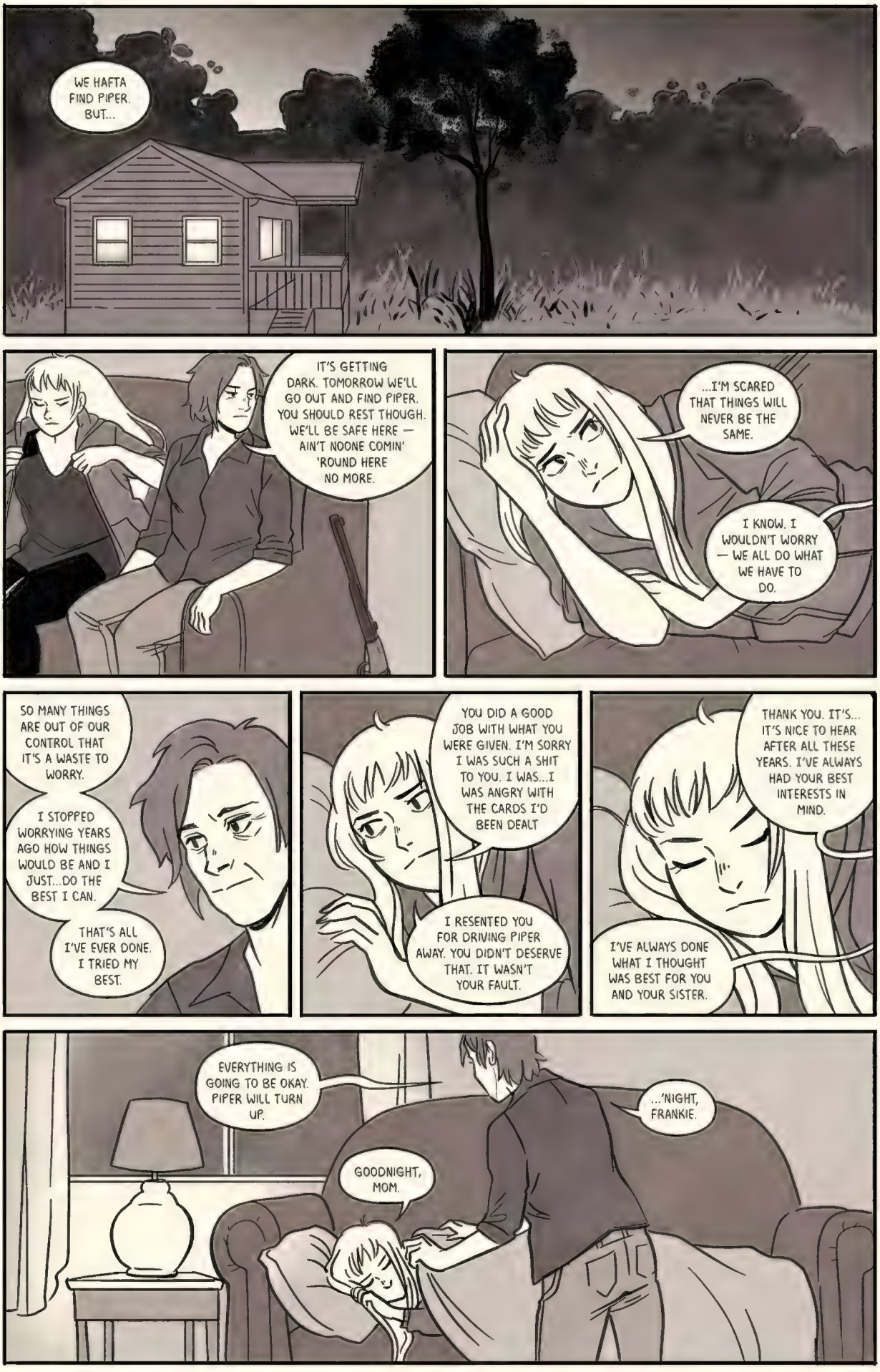

Gas
2
YOU'LL SOON SPROUT, MR. COLLINS. I'LL SEND WORD TO YOUR FAMILY THAT YOU'VE BEEN LOST IN THE MINES — THEY'LL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO VISIT AND THEY'LL SEE YOUR SACRIFICE AND BELIEF.
YOU'LL BE FED TO THE MOUNTAIN AND THEY TOO WILL JOIN US AND YOU WILL NOT BE ALONE.
TH-THANK YOU. I HOPE I'VE...EARNED MY PLACE.
YOU HAVE.
MISS JOANNA! MISS JOANNA! BOY, DO WE GOTS A SURPRISE FOR YOU.

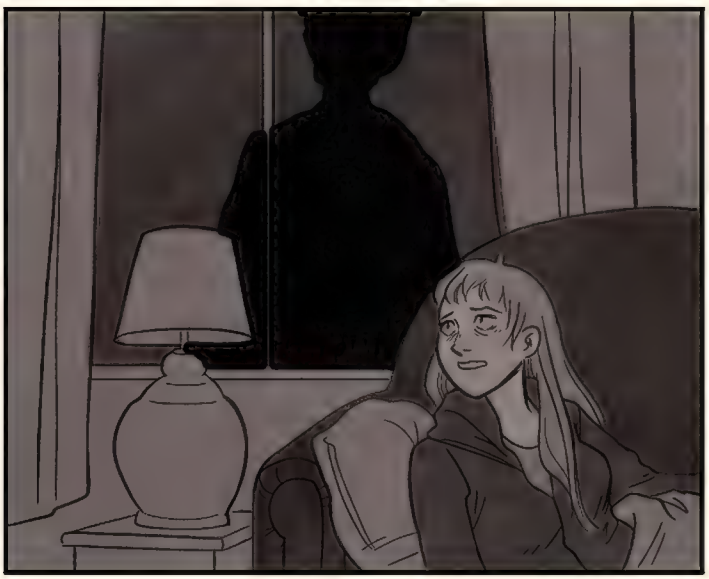

YUP! YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT! WE SNAGGED THIS THING FUCKIN' AROUND IN THE OLD LAURENT PLACE.
ALMOST SNAGGED WHOEVER IT WAS WITH BUT THEY GOTS AWAY.
I SWORE YOU WAS JOKIN' BOUT THIS THING BUT HERE IT IS! WEIRD AS ALL GET OUT. I AIN'T DOUBTIN' YOUS AGAIN.
WHAT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHOEVER WAS WITH IT?" WERE THERE MORE OF THESE ...THINGS.
NAH...TWO GIRLS — PROBABLY SOME LITTLE CITY SHITS TRYING TO FIND ANTIQUES TO SELL AT THE LAUREL FLEA.
UNGH!
WHOEVER BRINGS ME THOSE GIRLS WILL BE THE FIRST TO MEET THE MOUNTAIN, TO BASK IN ITS GLORY.
DON'T BE LIKE MRS. TYNER HERE, DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE.
TAKE THIS THING TO THE GARDEN AND LOCK IT UP. I DON'T WANT IT ESCAPING AGAIN.
YOU WILL REGRET EVERY WAKING MOMENT OF YOUR EXISTENCE FOR BRINGING THOSE GIRLS BACK HERE.
SHE KNOWS ABOUT YOUR SHAME AND THAT IS WHY YOU'RE HERE AGAIN. YOU CAN NOT ESCAPE YOUR FATE. YOU WILL BE EATEN . LIKE THE OTHERS.


FRANKIE, YOU NEED STITCHES FOR YOUR LEG. DON'T WANT IT TO GET INFECTED...
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO STITCH?
I DO, ACTUALLY. Y'ALLS NANA TAUGHT US HOW TO SEW WHEN WE WERE KIDS.
HAD TO STITCH UP YOUR MAMA AFTER SHE HIT SOME ROCKS OFF A ROPE SWING.
HAD TO HIDE IT FROM NANA FOR TWO WEEKS
UHHH...JODY — DO YOU HAVE ANY WHISKEY OR ANYTHING?


I GOT SOME SHINE, DRINK IT IN SIPS.
WON'T THIS MAKE YOU GO BLIND?
....MAYBE.
SO IT'S NOT SAFE?
YEP. LIKE I SAID, DRINK IT IN SIPS.
WHAT COLOR THREAD YOU WANT? I GOT BLACK, PINK AND SILVER.
PINK PLEASE!
SO...TELL ME WHAT YOU SAW. WHERE DID YOU GO? MIGHT AS WELL GET YOUR MIND OFF WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN.
WELL, WE KIND OF JUST WERE AT THIS PLACE...A BOAT JUST APPEARED AND THEN WE GOT ON AND JUST LIKE...SAILED?
BEFORE LONG WE WERE AT OUR OLD HOME AND JUMPED IN THIS HOLE.


THAT'S WHERE THIS MONSTER WAS... YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THIS THING.
IT WAS...BIG AS A BEAR AND THERE... THERE WAS HUMAN BODIES. I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS THING. WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE.
PIPER...SHE LED IT AWAY FROM ME AND...THAT'S THE LAST THING I HEARD. I CLIMBED UP FROM THE WELL AFTER SOMEONE THREW ME A ROPE AND ...THEN THAT'S WHEN I WAS ATTACKED.
WELL...THAT WAS JUST ABOUT THE WORST THING EVER...
OH, HUSH. NOW PASS THAT SHINE OVER.


WE HAFTA FIND PIPER. BUT...
IT'S GETTING DARK. TOMORROW WE'LL GO OUT AND FIND PIPER. YOU SHOULD REST THOUGH. WE'LL BE SAFE HERE — AIN'T NOONE COMIN' 'ROUND HERE NO MORE.
...I'M SCARED THAT THINGS WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.
I KNOW. I WOULDN'T WORRY — WE ALL DO WHAT WE HAVE TO DO.
SO MANY THINGS ARE OUT OF OUR CONTROL THAT IT'S A WASTE TO WORRY.
I STOPPED WORRYING YEARS AGO HOW THINGS WOULD BE AND I JUST...DO THE BEST I CAN.
THAT'S ALL I'VE EVER DONE. I TRIED MY BEST.
YOU DID A GOOD JOB WITH WHAT YOU WERE GIVEN. I'M SORRY I WAS SUCH A SHIT TO YOU. I WAS...I WAS ANGRY WITH THE CARDS I'D BEEN DEALT
I RESENTED YOU FOR DRIVING PIPER AWAY. YOU DIDN'T DESERVE THAT. IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.
THANK YOU. IT'S... IT'S NICE TO HEAR AFTER ALL THESE YEARS. I'VE ALWAYS HAD YOUR BEST INTERESTS IN MIND.
I'VE ALWAYS DONE WHAT I THOUGHT WAS BEST FOR YOU AND YOUR SISTER.
EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE OKAY. PIPER WILL TURN UP.
GOODNIGHT, MOM.
...'NIGHT, FRANKIE.



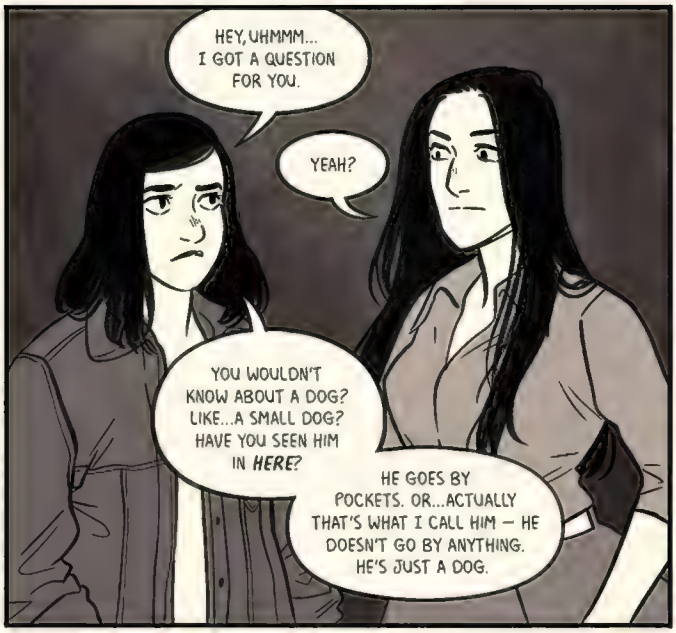
creeeaak
MOM!
HELP!!
MOM!

CHAPTER
THREE

OH SHI— !!

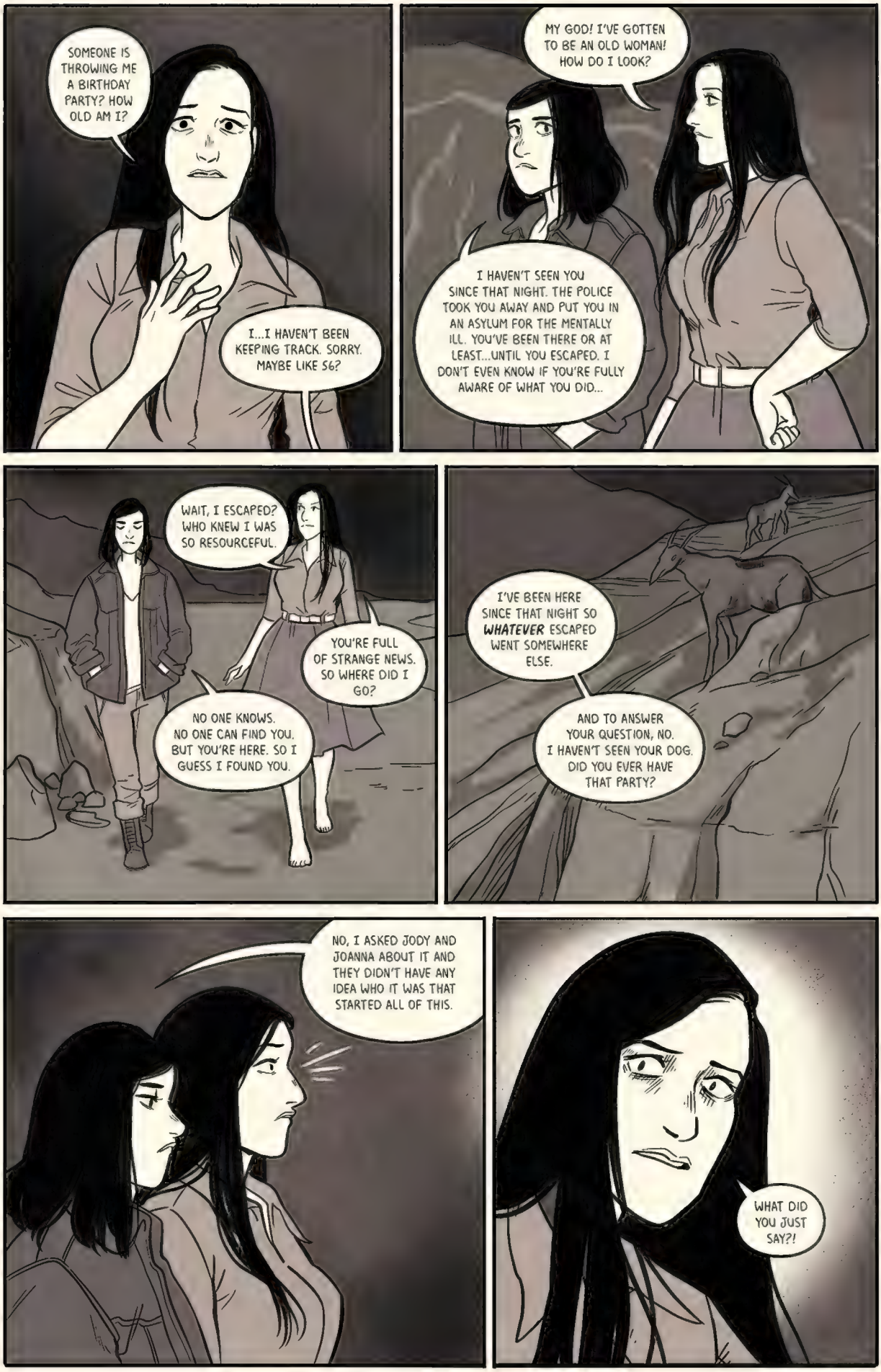
YOU OKAY, DARLIN'?

YEAH, I'M NOT HURT.


HEY, UHMMM... I GOT A QUESTION FOR YOU.
YEAH?
YOU WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT A DOG? LIKE...A SMALL DOG? HAVE YOU SEEN HIM IN *HERE*?
HE GOES BY POCKETS. OR...ACTUALLY THAT'S WHAT I CALL HIM — HE DOESN'T GO BY ANYTHING. HE'S JUST A DOG.

IF YOUR DOG RAN AWAY I DOUBT HE'D MADE IT HERE OF ALL PLACES. NOT LIKE THIS PLACE IS EASY TO FIND.
...I WOULDN'T HAVE PEGGED YOU A DOG PERSON.

WHEN DID YA GET ONE?
NOT THAT LONG AGO.
YOU GOT A DOG BEFORE LEAVING?
I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS COMING AND I...I HAVEN'T BEEN DOING WELL. I GUESS THIS IS REAL LIFE, BUT OUTSIDE OF THIS.
YEAH, US LAURENT GIRLS GOT PROBLEMS, DON'T WE?
YOU KNOW I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT. I HADN'T TALKED TO FRANCES IN...A VERY LONG TIME. I DON'T FEEL THINGS LIKE A NORMAL PERSON. I SHUT EVERYONE OUT AND I GOT A DOG...I WAS HOPING THINGS WOULD GET BETTER.
THEY DIDN'T.
I GET THE FEELING THIS IS MY FAULT?
I...I DON'T KNOW. PROBABLY.
IF IT MATTERS, I NEVER STOPPED LOVIN' YOU AND CARIN' FOR YOU ALL.
I THINK ABOUT YOU AND FRANCES EVERY MOMENT AND...WHEREVER I AM, THE THOUGHT OF YOU ALL BRINGS ME WARMTH. AND GOODNESS.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT DOES MATTER. I'M SORRY... I CAN'T FORGIVE YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID...TRIED TO DO. EVEN IF THAT WASN'T YOU OR WHATEVER —IT STILL WAS.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT YOU WERE...ILL, BUT THAT DOESN'T ABSOLVE YOU. I DON'T THINK.
...I DON'T KNOW.
PIPER...WHY DID YOU COME BACK TO HAZEL PATCH?
WELL...LIKE THIS WHOLE THING STARTED WHEN THIS THING APPEARED, STOLE MY DOG, AND INVITED FRANCES AND ME TO YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY.


SOMEONE IS THROWING ME A BIRTHDAY PARTY? HOW OLD AM I?
I...I HAVEN'T BEEN KEEPING TRACK. SORRY. MAYBE LIKE 56?
MY GOD! I'VE GOTTEN TO BE AN OLD WOMAN! HOW DO I LOOK?
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE THAT NIGHT. THE POLICE TOOK YOU AWAY AND PUT YOU IN AN ASYLUM FOR THE MENTALLY ILL. YOU'VE BEEN THERE OR AT LEAST...UNTIL YOU ESCAPED. I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF YOU'RE FULLY AWARE OF WHAT YOU DID...
WAIT, I ESCAPED? WHO KNEW I WAS SO RESOURCEFUL.
YOU'RE FULL OF STRANGE NEWS. SO WHERE DID I GO?
NO ONE KNOWS. NO ONE CAN FIND YOU. BUT YOU'RE HERE. SO I GUESS I FOUND YOU.
I'VE BEEN HERE SINCE THAT NIGHT SO ***WHATEVER*** ESCAPED WENT SOMEWHERE ELSE.
AND TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, NO. I HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR DOG. DID YOU EVER HAVE THAT PARTY?
NO, I ASKED JODY AND JOANNA ABOUT IT AND THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHO IT WAS THAT STARTED ALL OF THIS.
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!

I ASKED YOUR SISTERS ABOUT IT.
PIPER...JOANNA ...THAT ***THING***...IS ***NOT*** MY SISTER. SHE ISN'T EVEN HUMAN.
SHE IS A WRETCH.
A WITCH FROM THIS PLACE.
COME ON! WE HAVE TO HURRY. WE HAVE TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE.
EVERYONE IS IN DANGER. EVERYONE!
HEY! WAIT UP! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

3 THE SONGS THAT WE SING

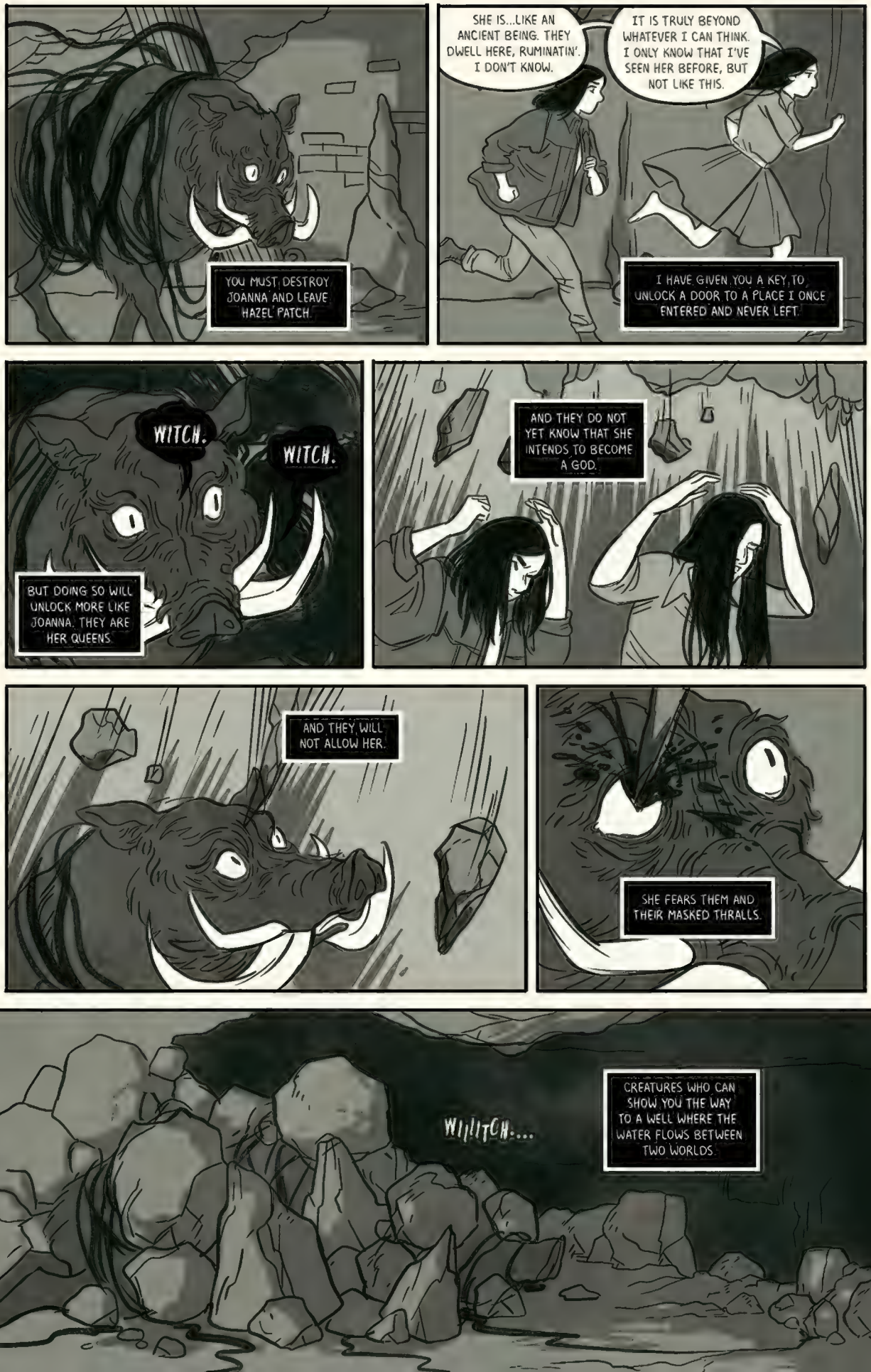
DEAR PIPER AND FRANCES.

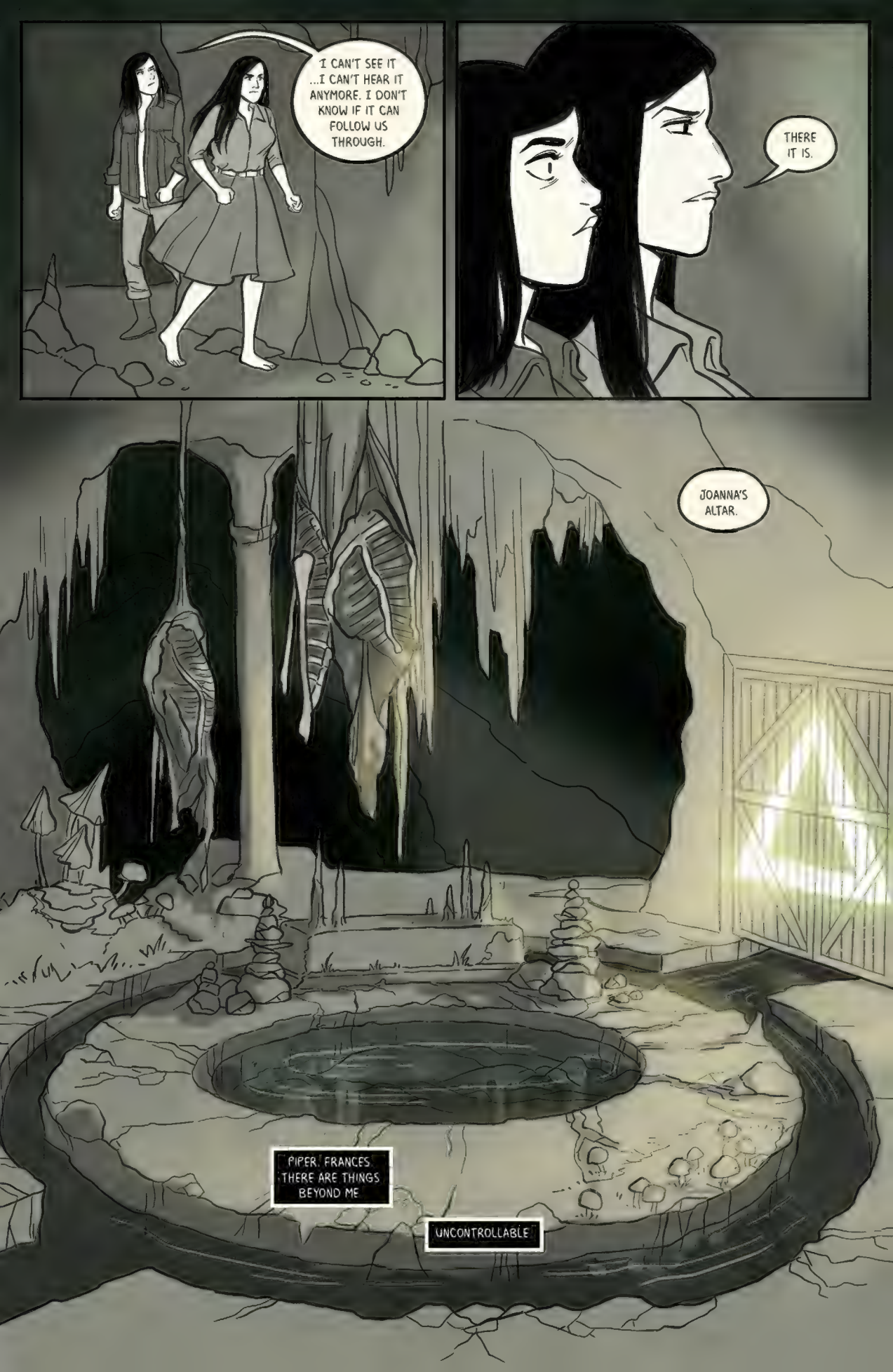
I AM STUCK IN THIS PLACE, LIKELY FOREVER. BUT I'VE WRITTEN THESE WORDS SO THAT YOU KNOW IT CAN BE DIFFERENT FOR YOU.

PIPER, THERE WAS NO WAY TO EXPLAIN THIS IN PERSON SO I'M HOPING THAT THIS MESSAGE FINDS YOU WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST.

WE—WE HAVE TO GET YOU BACK. YOU'VE GOT TO LEAVE. TAKE FRANCES AND LEAVE. I...I...
OKAY! OKAY! HOW DO WE DO THAT?!
JOANNA IS THE DEVOURER. A GREAT BEAST WHO CONSUMED THESE...PRIMORDIAL CREATURES.
FOLLOW THE RIVER IN...
....THIS WAY.
THAT'S HOW SHE CROSSED. THAT'S HOW SHE CAME TO OUR WORLD.
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME? YOU CAN LEAVE RIGHT?
NO, I CAN'T. I'VE TRIED — I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS PLACE OR THE RULES.
I LEAVE AND IN A MOMENT I'M BACK. I'M HERE UNTIL SOMETHING CHANGES.
I THINK...I DON'T KNOW. IT DOESN'T MATTER. NOT RIGHT NOW.
OFFERING A CURE FOR OUR ILLS.
SHE WAS TURNING THE PEOPLE OF HAZEL PATCH INTO HER LIFE FORCE WITH BLACKENED SEEDS.
I THOUGHT SHE COULD CURE ME...BUT...SHE HAD OTHER PLANS. PLANS I NEVER KNEW. NEVER FOUND OUT ABOUT...
...SOMETHING ...IS...

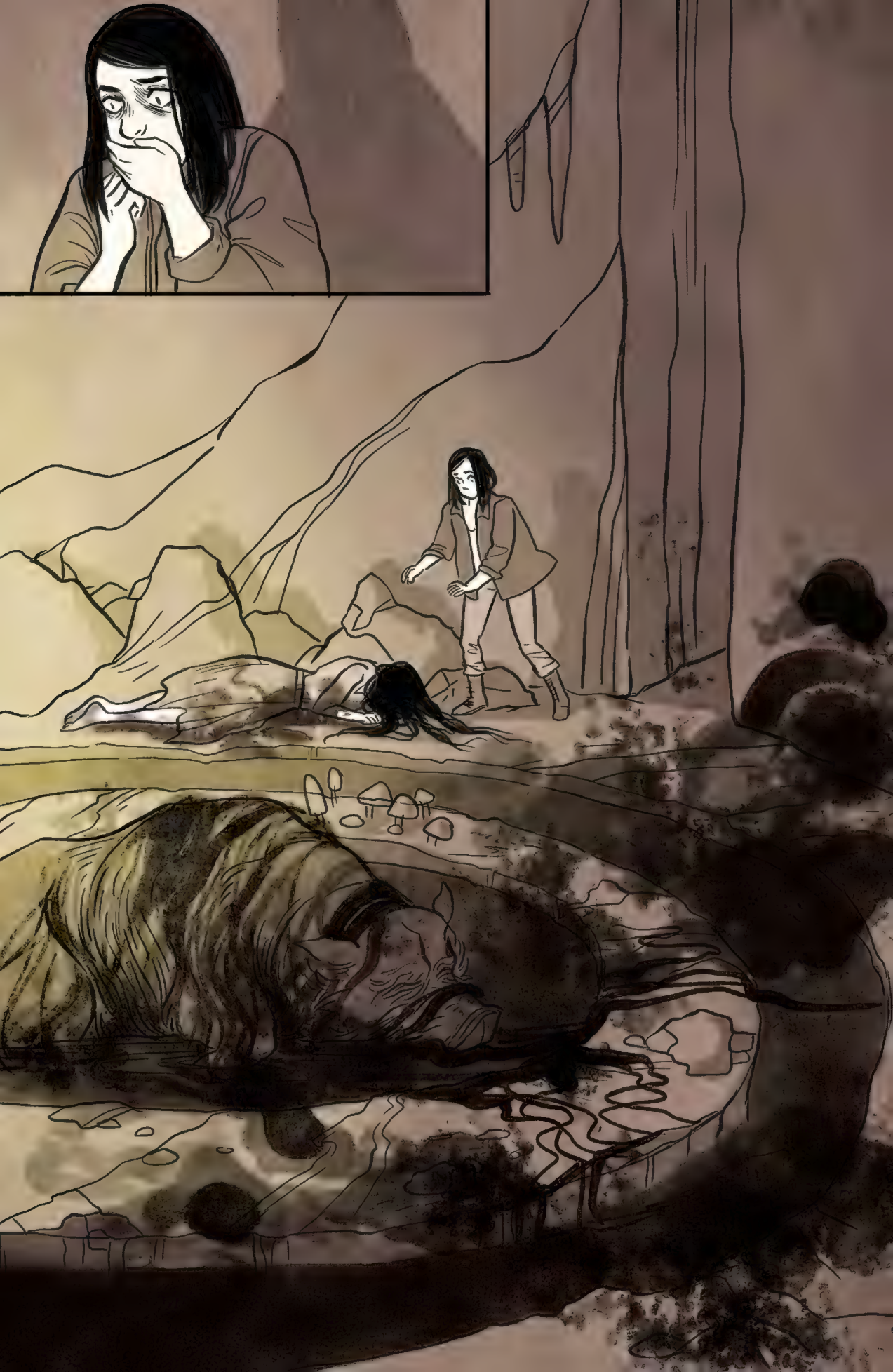
EVERY BEAST JOANNA DEVOURED BECAME A PUPPET FOR HER.
WITCH.
WITCH.
WITCH.
GUARDING HER SECRETS.
THEY ARE NO LONGER GODS.
BUT INSTEAD BLIND AND STUPID BEASTS...
DROWNING IN THOUGHTLESS RAGE.
SHE'S HERE! IT'S HER MAGIC!
YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT THING?!


YOU MUST DESTROY JOANNA AND LEAVE HAZEL PATCH.
SHE IS...LIKE AN ANCIENT BEING. THEY DWELL HERE, RUMINATIN'. I DON'T KNOW.
IT IS TRULY BEYOND WHATEVER I CAN THINK. I ONLY KNOW THAT I'VE SEEN HER BEFORE, BUT NOT LIKE THIS.
I HAVE GIVEN YOU A KEY, TO UNLOCK A DOOR TO A PLACE I ONCE ENTERED AND NEVER LEFT.
WITCH.
WITCH.
BUT DOING SO WILL UNLOCK MORE LIKE JOANNA. THEY ARE HER QUEENS.
AND THEY DO NOT YET KNOW THAT SHE INTENDS TO BECOME A GOD.
AND THEY WILL NOT ALLOW HER.
SHE FEARS THEM AND THEIR MASKED THRALLS.
WIIITCH...
CREATURES WHO CAN SHOW YOU THE WAY TO A WELL WHERE THE WATER FLOWS BETWEEN TWO WORLDS.


I CAN'T SEE IT ...I CAN'T HEAR IT ANYMORE. I DON'T KNOW IF IT CAN FOLLOW US THROUGH.
THERE IT IS.
JOANNA'S ALTAR.
PIPER. FRANCES. THERE ARE THINGS BEYOND ME
UNCONTROLLABLE

WE FOUND IT... JOANNA'S CAVE. THIS IS WHERE...THIS IS WH—
THE.ONE.
WHO.ATE.
THE.OTHERS.
LIKE.FOOD.
SHE.ATE.US.
US.ONCE.
BEYOND.
MY SISTERS.
MY BROTHERS.
BUT, I CAN GUIDE YOU.
ROAARRRR

PIPER.
PIPER.
PIPER.
PIPER.
AAAAAAAAAAAAHH



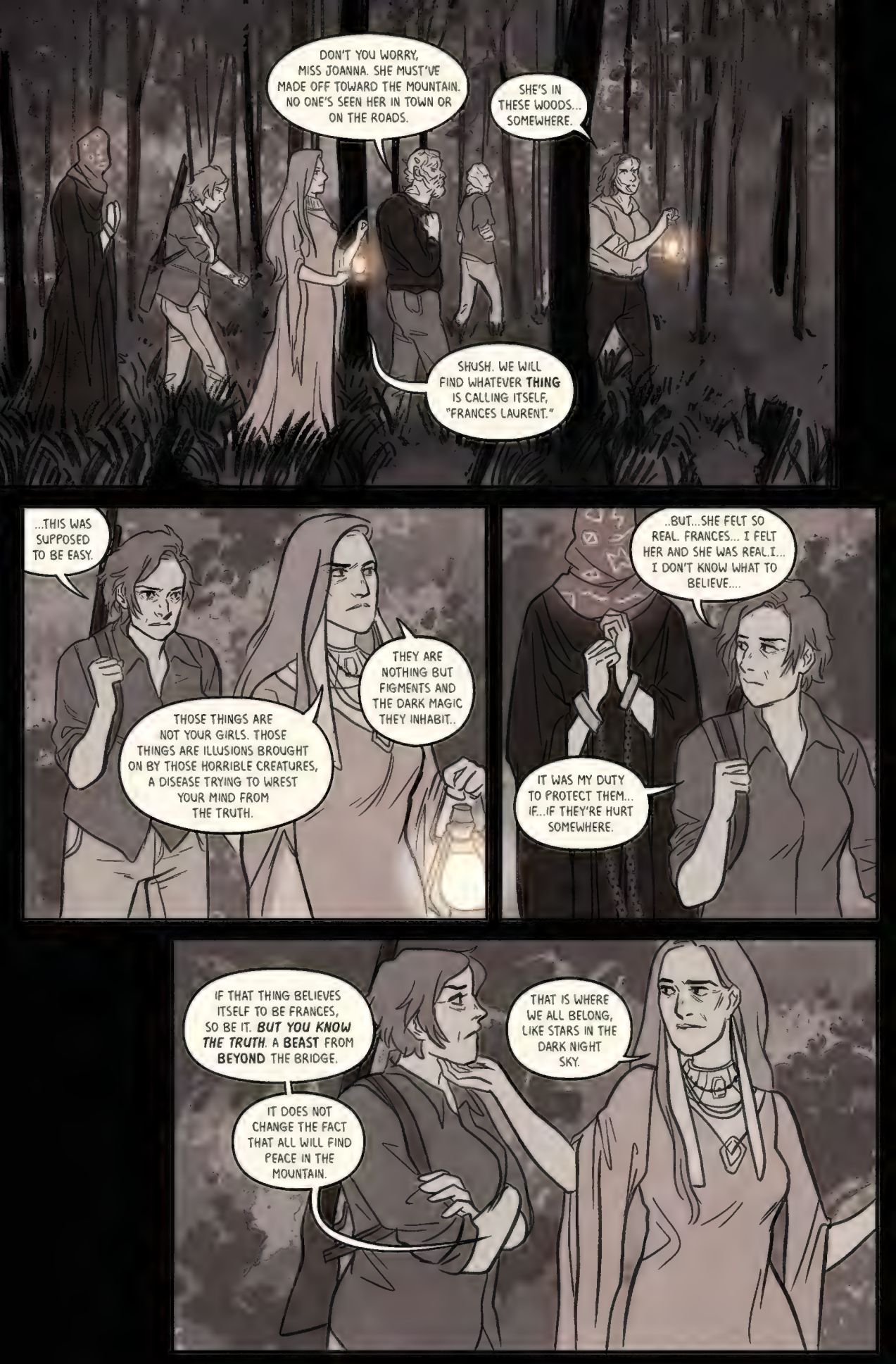
...PIPER...
MOM!
MOM!
I HOPE MY LOVE WILL ECHO FOREVER.
MOM!!
SLAM

STOP YOUR WIGGLIN', WOMAN. AIN'T DOING NOTHING BUT GETTIN' YA TIRED OUT.
SO SHE'S THE ONE THAT GOT RHETT AND MO-MO...? NO BIGGER 'EN 'UN MINNOW. RHETT WAS NEARLY TWICE HER SIZE...DON'T MAKE NO SENSE.
SHE HAD HELP. AIN'T NO ONE AROUND KILL RHETT WITHOUT SOME HELP.
THINK MISS JOANNA BE HAPPY WE GOT 'ER?
SHOULD BE...
HEY, LEMME ASK YOU SOMETHIN' — WUTCHU MAKE 'BOUT ALL THIS MOUNTAIN TALK.
I'LL SAY THIS — I AIN'T SICK. I AIN'T GOT THEM HEADACHES NO MORE. I'M LITTLE UGLIER BUT SO'S EVERYONE ELSE AND AIN'T NO ONE DONE DIED SINCE SHE WENT AND CURED US. IF SHE THINKS IT'S SOME MAGIC MOUNTAIN DOIN' ALL THIS THEN, LET HER BE CRAZY. I'M JUST HAPPY I AIN'T DEAD.
YEP. I SPOSE. I DO MISS NOT LOOKIN' LIKE A FUCKIN' FREAK, THOUGH.
ADDS CHARACTER. MY UNCLE — WHEN HE GOT HOME FROM...KUWAIT OR SOMETHING, HE WAS UGLIER THAN SIN, BUT HE HAD A FEW MEDALS AND GOT LAID ALL THE GOT DAMN TIME.
WHERE'S HE AT NOW?
DEADER THAN DIRT. NOT US, THOUGH. WE'RE ALIVE AND KICKIN'...

WELL...THAT AIN'T GOOD.
PIPER...
AW SHIT. SHE WENT AN' RAN OFF.
BACK TO JODY'S! SHE'S GOTTA STICK TO THE ROADS!

WHERE...WHERE ...AM I? IS THIS DEATH? IS THIS IT?
NO...I CAN...STILL FEEL SOMETHING. WARMTH. BEAT OF MY OWN HEART.
I CAN FEEL IT BEATING. I AM ALIVE.
SOMEWHERE. MY SISTER. FRANCES. I WANT TO...I WANT TO BE...
DEAR PIPER & FRANCES...

♫♫♫
AH-HA. W-WELCOME ...TO..THE — PARTY PLANNING COMMITTEE. YOU ARE ...VERY LATE.
♫♫
♫
WE...WE HAVE MUCH...TO TELL YOU — ABOUT YOUR MOTHER...AND THE ONE THAT ATE THE OTHERS...OUR...US...
PLEASE...COME ...WITH US — THEY HAVE... OUR MU-MUTUAL FR-FRIEND.


DON'T YOU WORRY, MISS JOANNA. SHE MUST'VE MADE OFF TOWARD THE MOUNTAIN. NO ONE'S SEEN HER IN TOWN OR ON THE ROADS.
SHE'S IN THESE WOODS... SOMEWHERE.
SHUSH. WE WILL FIND WHATEVER **THING** IS CALLING ITSELF, "FRANCES LAURENT."
...THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE EASY.
THOSE THINGS ARE NOT YOUR GIRLS. THOSE THINGS ARE ILLUSIONS BROUGHT ON BY THOSE HORRIBLE CREATURES, A DISEASE TRYING TO WREST YOUR MIND FROM THE TRUTH.
THEY ARE NOTHING BUT FIGMENTS AND THE DARK MAGIC THEY INHABIT..
..BUT...SHE FELT SO REAL. FRANCES... I FELT HER AND SHE WAS REAL.I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE....
IT WAS MY DUTY TO PROTECT THEM... IF...IF THEY'RE HURT SOMEWHERE.
IF THAT THING BELIEVES ITSELF TO BE FRANCES, SO BE IT. ***BUT YOU KNOW THE TRUTH***. A **BEAST** FROM **BEYOND** THE BRIDGE.
IT DOES NOT CHANGE THE FACT THAT ALL WILL FIND PEACE IN THE MOUNTAIN.
THAT IS WHERE WE ALL BELONG, LIKE STARS IN THE DARK NIGHT SKY.

HNGH!
THIS IS YOUR FAULT. STAND AND EMBRACE YOUR FATE. I OFFER YOU THIS ONE LAST TIME. TELL US HOW TO FIND THE OTHERS! TELL US!
♪♪♫
FINE. YOU'LL BE CONSUMED LIKE THE REST OF YOUR KIND.
FRANCES? IS THAT YOU?
JODY???
J...JODY? WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WHAT'S GOING ON! TELL ME!

NO...NO...PLEASE... IT'S ME — WHAT ARE YOU DOING. IT'S FRANCES.
WHY...WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
LIAR! YOU KILLED HER ...YOU DID!
YOU'RE ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE...THOSE... MASK WEARING MONSTERS!
I JUST WANT...WANT MY GIRLS BACK.PLEASE ...BRING FRANCES BACK TO ME.
KILL THE MONSTER! SHOOT IT!
IT'S ME! IT'S ME... WE...ATE BISCUITS! WHEN WE CAME AND I FELL ASLEEP IN THE TRUCK WHEN YOU FOUND US ON THE ROAD.
JODY! IT'S ME! IT'S REALLY ME!
BANG

PIPER!
YOU!
STOP! NO MORE! MY SISTER AND I ARE LEAVING! BACK AWAY!

YOU'VE SEEN IT! YOU'VE SEEN EVERYTHING! YOU KNOW!

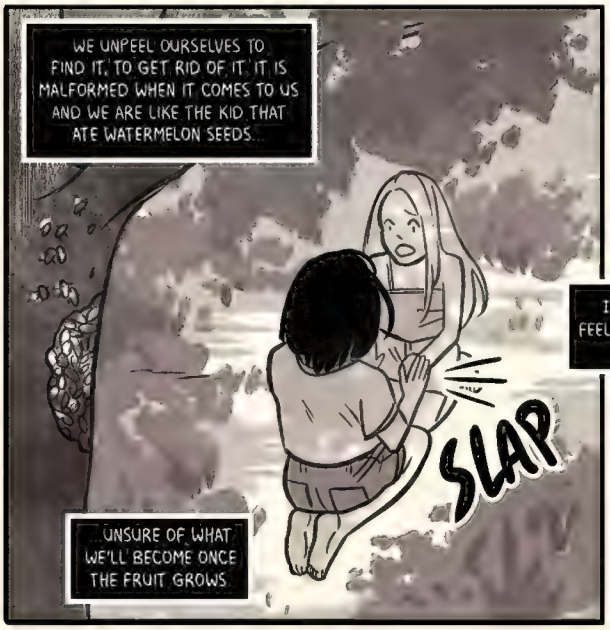
STOP! COME BACK!!
LEAVE US ALONE! WE AIN'T WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS NO MORE!
WHAT THE--!!
OH GOD!
OH MY GOD!!
AAAUUGHHHH
AAAAAHHH
AHHHHH

CHAPTER
FOUR

chrr
chrr
chrr
I HAD AN ORANGE GROWING INSIDE ME. NO VINES OR LEAVES, JUST A FRUIT.

Chrrrrrr
chrr
IT WAS SOMETHING I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND BUT... I UNDERSTAND IT NOW.

NATURE CONSPIRING AGAINST US. SOMETHING GROWS BUT WE DIDN'T PUT THE SEED THERE. SOMETHING CHANGES INSIDE US.
ROTTING AND SPREADING. CONSUMING. EATING.
Chrr


WE UNPEEL OURSELVES TO FIND IT, TO GET RID OF IT. IT IS MALFORMED WHEN IT COMES TO US AND WE ARE LIKE THE KID THAT ATE WATERMELON SEEDS...
SLAP
...UNSURE OF WHAT WE'LL BECOME ONCE THE FRUIT GROWS.

I AM AN IMAGINARY FEELING. GHOSTS LIVING IN BARNS.
SNAKES BECOMING SUNFLOWERS WHEN THEY DIE.
A MOUNTAIN THAT SLEEPS.
waahaaa

4
UNDISCOVERED
FIRST

AAHHHHH

PIPER!!!
FRANCES!!!

PIPER...

OH MY GOD, PIPER! I WAS SO WORRIED.
IT WAS HORRIBLE WITHOUT YOU! I...THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN. THAT YOU HAD DIED. AND THAT I WAS GOING TO DIE. I'M...SO...
I'M SO HAPPY YOU'RE ALIVE! WAAAAAA-HAAAAAA!
WHAT...WHAT HAPPENED?! WHERE DID YOU GO? TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED!
I FOUND MYSELF THERE AGAIN BUT I WENT DEEPER.
I...I FOUND MOM. OR...SOMEONE THAT SAID SHE WAS MOM. I'M NOT SURE. I HAVE ONLY SOME ANSWERS. I THINK.
YOU FOUND MOM?! WHERE IS SHE?!

WILL YOU TRUST ME, FRANCES? WILL YOU TRUST THAT I THINK I KNOW WHAT TO DO?
I TRUST YOU. FOREVER. ALWAYS.

PIPER! PIPER! I KNOW WHERE YOU'VE BEEN. I KNOW WHAT YOU'VE SEEN.
HOW DID YOU LIKE THAT PLACE? DID YOU MEET HER?
DID YOU MEET HER?!?!
YOU'LL SEE. YOU'LL SEE WHAT I'VE DONE FOR YOU AND YOUR SISTER.
YOUR MOTHER ...I SAVED HER!

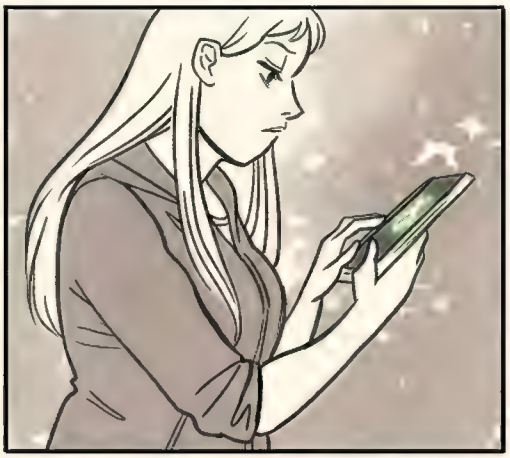
FRANKIE! PIPER! I'M HERE! I'M NOT GONNA HURT EITHER OF YOU!
I'M...I'M SORRY, GIRLS!
WHAT IN THE HELL DID I GET MYSELF INTO...
YOU ALRIGHT...?
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER! STRANGE THINGS ARE HAPPENIN'.
NO SHIT, LADY! I'M GONNA GO LIVE WITH MY MAMA IN LAUREL!
I RECOMMEND THAT YOU AND YOUR DUMB MOTHERFUCKIN' FAMILY DO THE SAME AND PRAY TO WHATEVER THE HELL IS MAKING THIS GEE-DEE NONSENSE HAPPEN!
...JESUS CHRIST, GIRL, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO...?

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
H-HELLO?
H-HELP... MO'CCUS HAS FALLEN.
THE H-HOODS, THE TH-THREE = HOODS ARE SET TO...ARRIVE...
...PROT-ECT YOUR D-DA-DAUGHTERS.
BANG

AAAAAAEEEEEEEEEEE...
NOPE. WHAT THE HELL AM I THINKIN? I AIN'T ABOUT TO BECOME SOME KINDA WITCH.
I'M GOING TO FIND MY GIRLS.

I...I THINK WE GOT TURNED AROUND, PIPER. DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING?
BECAUSE LIKE...LIKE IF YOU DON'T YOU NEED TO SAY SOMETHING BECAUSE IT'S LIKE YOU'VE BEEN LEADING AND I'VE BEEN TRUSTING AND I STILL TRUST YOU BUT IT'S JUST LIKE I REALLY DON'T WANT TO DIE HERE, PIPER.
SO PLEASE, FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.
YEAH...I THINK WE GOT TURNED AROUND...BUT — HOW DID YOU CLIMB OUT OF THIS WELL? IT'S FULL OF LIQUID...?
YOU KNOW...I THINK THIS IS EXACTLY WHERE WE NEEDED TO END UP.
FRANCES?! WHERE ARE YOU!? FRANCES? PIPER?
HEY! FOCUS! I NEED YOUR HELP HERE. SO HERE'S THE DEAL, OKAY? THIS BOOK WE FOUND WAS MOM'S.
BUT...IT CAME OUT DIFFERENT. IT WENT WITH ME, OKAY? IT CAME OUT DIFFERENT.
YES. I SEE THAT IT GLOWS NOW WHICH IS PRETTY NEAT.
NEAT. YEAH. ANYWAY, THE THRALLS TOLD ME—
...THE WHAT?

JUST LISTEN, OKAY? THERE'S TOO MUCH TO EXPLAIN RIGHT NOW. ANYWAY, THE THRALLS TOLD ME THIS SYMBOL IS SOMETHING ...THAT AFFECTS JOANNA.
SO...I THINK, IF I PUT THE JOURNAL IN THE WELL THINGS WILL FIX ITSELF? LIKE I'M TAKING A CRAP SHOOT HERE,FRANCES. I'VE GOT BITS AND PIECES...SO LIKE THAT MAKES SENSE RIGHT?



IT REALLY JUST LOOKS LIKE YOU'D BE PUTTING MOM'S JOURNAL INTO A REALLY GROSS WELL...WHICH I GUESS WHAT I'M SAYING IS YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL YOU'RE DOING.
KINDA! FRANCES, THEY TALK IN FUCKIN' CODES AND NONSENSE! CUT ME SOME SLACK?

OKAY...JUST **REMEMBER** ...YOU KNOW FOR SURE THAT THIS BOOK IS MAGIC AND WILL FIX SOME STUFF AND THAT JOANNA ISN'T HUMAN.

WHOA WHOA WHOA. WHAT?
JOANNA IS A WITCH FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION OR... AN ALIEN? NOT TOTALLY SURE. ANYWAY, MOM TOLD ME. SHE WAS THERE.

...I THINK WE'RE IN OVER OUR HEADS.

HEY...I DON'T KNOW IF I'M GONNA GET ANOTHER CHANCE TO SAY THIS, BUT...IT WAS THREE YEARS. WE WERE GONE FOR THREE YEARS.
WH-WHAT? WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I'M SORRY, PIPER...
...ITS OKAY. I THINK I'M OKAY. I...I HAVE TO BE STRONG TO DO THIS. THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID. THEY TOLD ME TO BE STRONG FOR YOU.
UCK.
CHANGED...IT CHANGED PIPER.
YEAH...THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID WOULD HAPPEN.

BUT...MOM WROTE US A NOTE AND NOW IT'S GONE. IT'S...
HNNNG
HNG
HNG
HNG
HNG
HHHHNNN
HNNGGGHAAAAAA
AAAHH
FOLLOW ME! WE'RE GOING HOME!

grgle
grrgle
blurp
krack
creeeekkk

ERUMBLE RUMBLE R
KRACK

JOANNA! COME ON OUT! I AIN'T GONNA LET YOU HURT MY GIRLS NO MORE!
I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS BUT...I KNOW THEMS MY GIRLS. AIN'T NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
HELLO, SISTER.

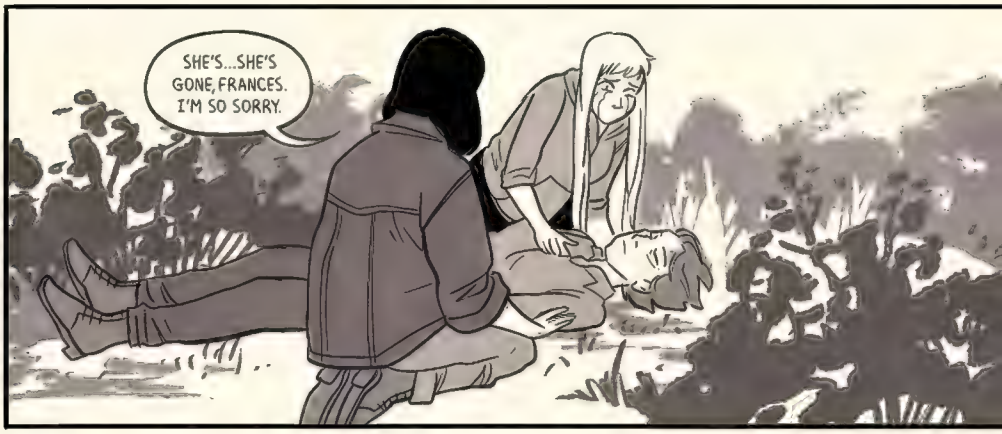
DO YOU THINK SHE SAW US? DO YOU THINK SHE KNOWS WE'RE UP HERE?
SHE DEFINITELY KNOWS...
WELL! WE CAN ESCAPE THROUGH THE HOLE AND WAIT ANOTHER THREE YEARS AND BE DONE WITH ALL THIS! THE MONSTER IS GONE DOWN THERE AND IT'LL TAKE US BACK TO MOM. SHE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO!
WHAT?!
NO! NOO!
AAAAAAAAA
WHERE IS IT? WHERE IS IT?!
I'M GOING OUTSIDE NOW. JOIN ME.

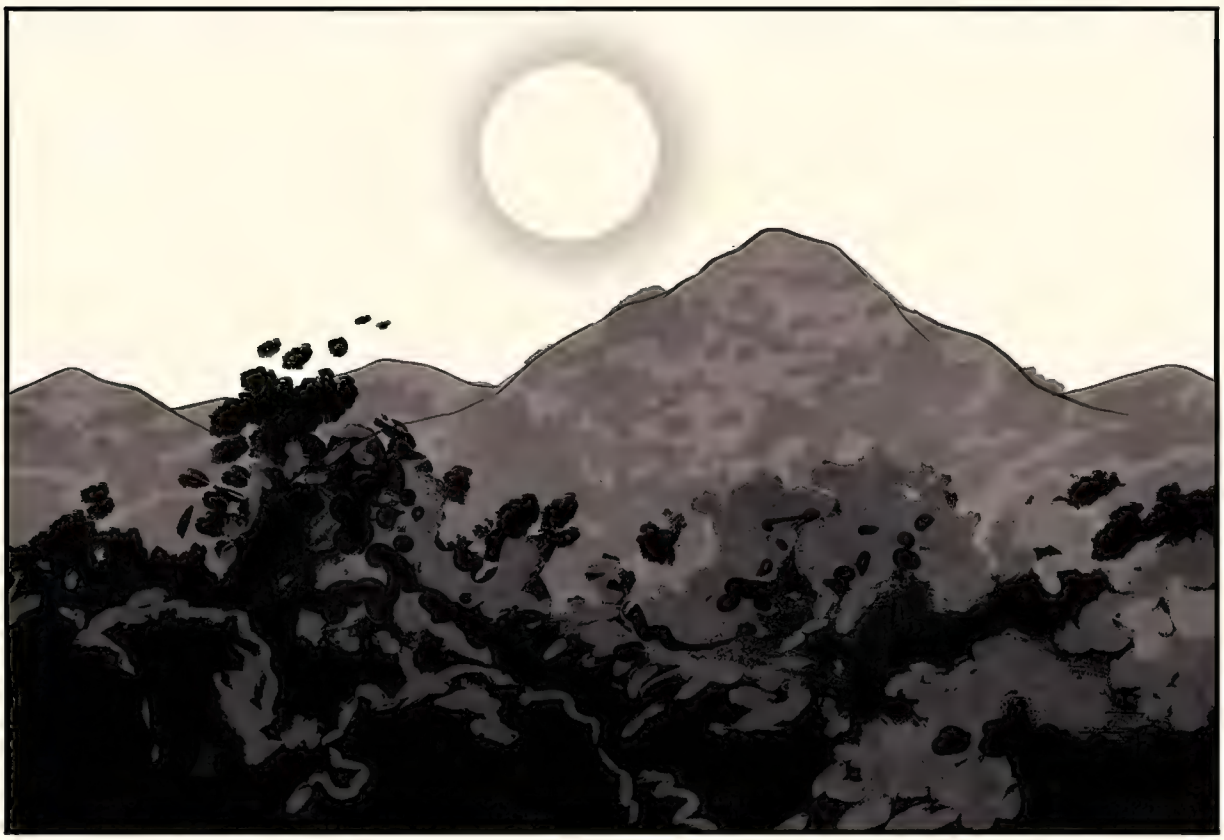
PIPER! FRANCES! WE SHARE SOMETHING — WE ARE NOT ENEMIES! WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE SAME THING. WE'RE LOOKING FOR FAMILY!
I BRING BELONGING! I CAN OFFER THAT! I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HERE, OFFERING ONLY THAT.
I OFFERED IT TO JUNE AND NOW SHE...SHE LIVES IN THE BEYOND! CANCER FREE, FULL OF LOVE FOR BOTH OF YOU. THIS NEW FAMILY I HAVE MADE!
ALL WILL BE FOREVER IN TIME.
PL-PLEA... ACHK.
..JO—JO... PI...FRANN...

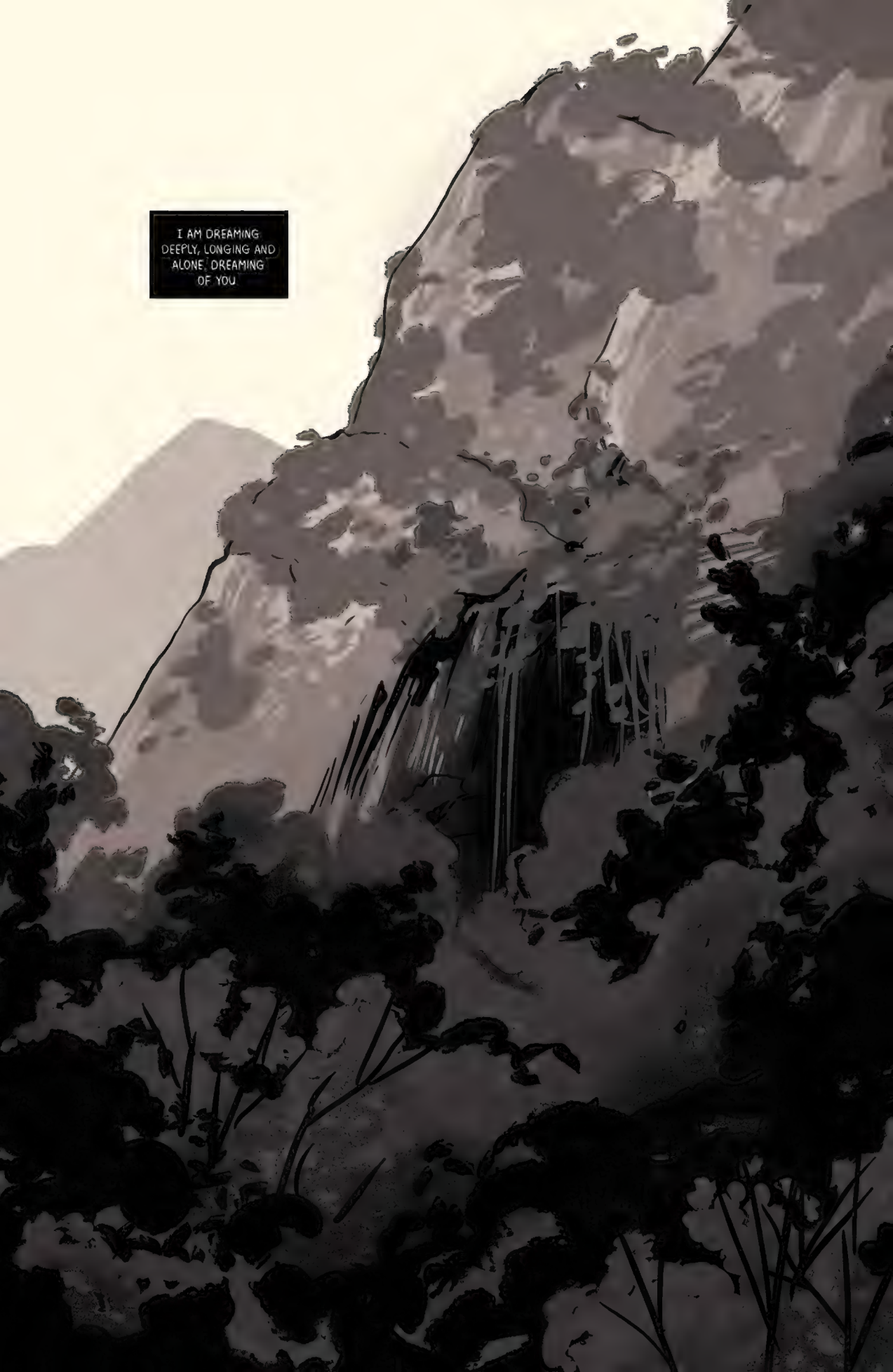
NO! NO!
OH GOD
NO!

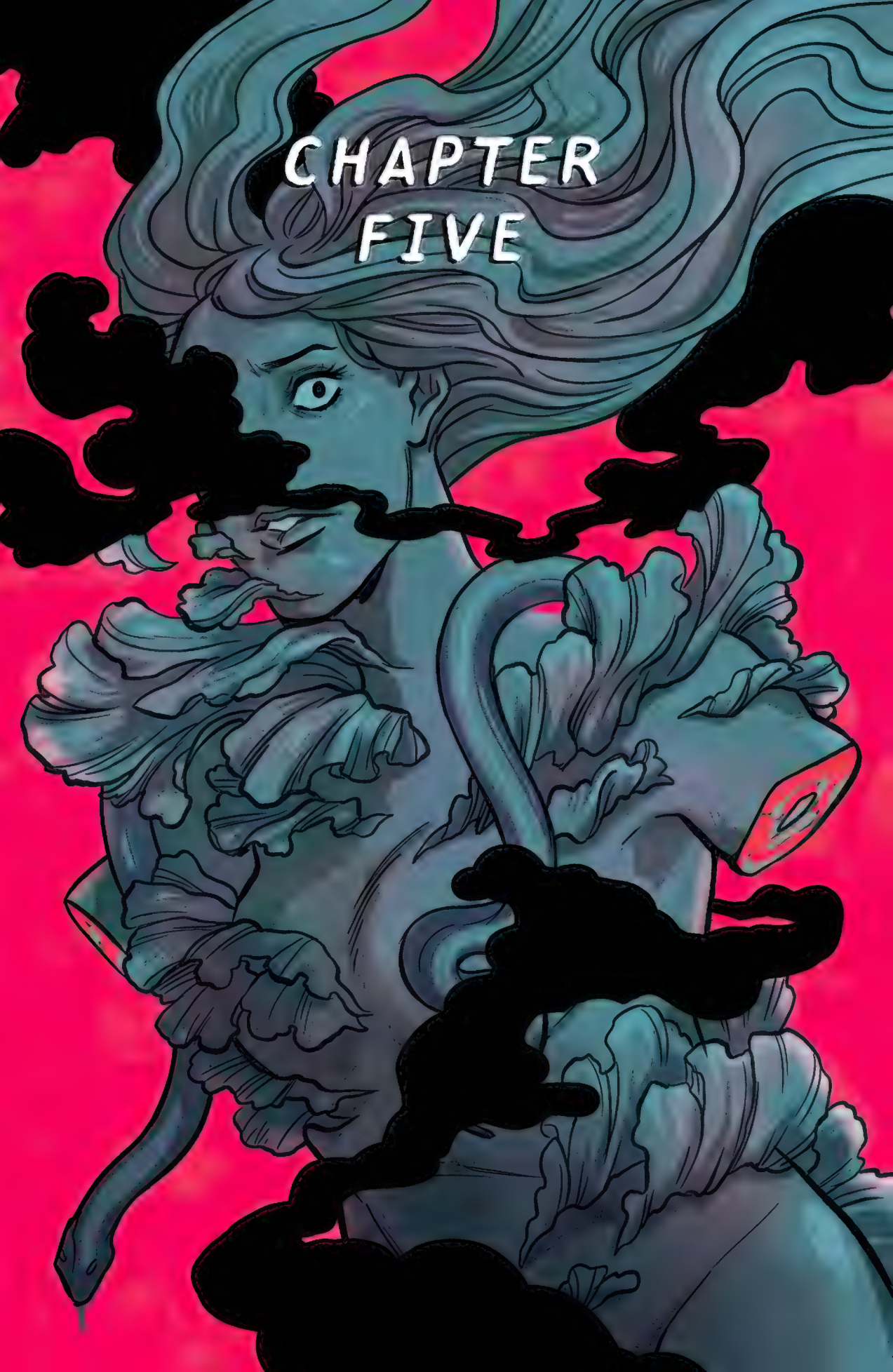
IT...IT IS OVER
...G--GIRLS...
CC-OME...
COME OUT.
SEE...THIS...
IS IT...
IS IT DONE?
I AM WAITING IN
THE MOUNTAIN.

YOU...ARE BOTH ...SO BEAUTIFUL. DON'T GO...TO...THE... MO--MOUN—
AAUUGGHHH!
FWOOOOSSSSHH


SHE'S...SHE'S GONE, FRANCES. I'M SO SORRY.




I AM DREAMING DEEPLY, LONGING AND ALONE. DREAMING OF YOU


CHAPTER
FIVE

DON'T TAKE ME TO...YOU'RE...T-TAKING ME...
I...HAVE NOT FAILED...NOT YET.
I HAVE ...NOT...
SOON YOU WILL WEAR THE MARK OF THE DECEIVER.
I HAVE NOT FAILED.

...HEY, I SEE SOMETHING UP AHEAD. IT LOOKS LIKE...
THE ENTRANCE TO HAZEL PATCH MINES.
OH MY GOD....
WAS IT JOANNA? DID JODY LET HER DO THIS? WHY...WHY DID THIS ALL HAVE TO HAPPEN?!
I'M NOT SURE THIS WAS JOANNA'S DOING...

WHAT... IS THAT?
WELL...AT LEAST IT DIDN'T TRY TO KILL US. I'LL TAKE THAT AS A BIG VICTORY. WE'VE COME A LONG WAY, YOU KNOW? LIKE, GROWING AND STUFF, RIGHT? I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T FEEL DIFFERENT, BUT...I'VE SEEN SOME PRETTY HORRIFYING STUFF.
LIKE...MAN. *PHEW*
YEAH, WE'RE PRETTY LUCKY, I GUESS...TO HAVE SURVIVED ALL THIS. UNLESS WE'RE CRAZY AND WE'VE JUST LOST OUR MINDS. I DOUBT THAT, THOUGH...

SO WE'RE DOING THIS, HUH?
I THINK SO.
IT'S JUST ME AND YOU NOW. JUST US. YOU FEELIN' GOOD ABOUT THAT?
NOT REALLY, BUT...
I LOVE YOU TO DEATH. I DO. I FEEL THAT NOW. I WANT THIS ALL TO CHANGE TO SOMETHING BETTER WHEN IT IS OVER.
I WANT TO CHANGE. I DON'T WANT THIS TO CONTROL ME ANYMORE.
I WANT MY OWN LIFE, AND...I WANT THIS TOWN AND EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED TO US TO ..VANISH. FOREVER.

I KNOW THIS IS NOT THE BEST TIME, BUT QUICK RECAP ON WHAT WE'RE DOING WHEN WE GO IN?
WELL, WE KNOW THIS PLACE IS LIKE...A BRIDGE BETWEEN HAZEL PATCH AND SOMEWHERE ELSE. MOM CALLED IT THE SOUND, SO WE'LL JUST STICK WITH THAT.
JOANNA IS DEAD AND THEY'RE TAKING HER BACK THERE, BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHY. WE NEED TO END THIS. SEAL THE DOOR OR SOMETHING.
I'M NOT ENTIRELY SURE, FRANCES. IT'S ALL JUST KIND OF...
ONE OF THOSE TRUST THINGS?
I THINK SO.
I REALLY DO LOVE YOU, SIS, AND I MISSED YOU. I'M ASHAMED THAT I ABANDONED YOU, BUT YOU DIDN'T NEED ME. YOU TURNED OUT JUST FINE...
YEAH! I LOVE YOU TOO, PIPER!
SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE?
LET'S HOPE.

I HAVE SLEPT IN PRIMAL THOUGHT, DANCING AND LIVING BETWEEN VOID AND DREAM.

ALL HAS BECOME ME. BIRTH, MEMORY, LIFE, AND FINAL YA-SHEH. DEATH. I WAS A DIVER OF WEAK BREATH, ON ONE SIDE OF A BRIDGE.

THERE WAS NOTHING OVERHEAD BUT A MOON FOREVER DRIPPING TIME. HEARING THE SOUNDS OF EVERSION, OF SHEDDING OLD HUMANITY, OF BLACK SCRIBBLES ON A PAGE, SHOWN IN SECRET TO SMALL CHILDREN.

CAN YOU HEAR IT? THE HUM OF COLLAPSING, OF DREAMLESS, OF DARK I AM LONG LOST IN A SEA OF MEMORIES, VACANT FROM REALITY.

A DISTANT FACE IN THE CHAOS, I DO NOT KNOW HER. I MOVE TO HER, IN THE DEEP CALM, TO HOLD HER. I SHEPHERD HER GHOST LIKE A SACRED TREASURE, SUNK IN A GREAT OCEAN WHERE THE WAVES SHIMMER INTO NOTHINGNESS.

OUHM. I AM.

ARE YOU HERE FOR THE DIVER? THE DIVER WHO ATE THE ONE IN THE WELL?
WE'RE...UH...HERE FOR THE ONE THAT ATE THE OTHERS?
WE'RE SO HAPPY YOU'RE FINALLY HERE! THEY'VE BEEN AWFUL TO US, WE WOULD SURELY BE MASKED HAD YOU NOT COME.
DID YOU FIND WHAT WAS LOST IN THAT OLD HOUSE?
THE HOLE? THE JOURNAL?
WE FELL DOWN THE HOLE AND PIPER PUT THE JOURNAL IN THE WELL.
OUR FRIEND ...OUR FRIEND HAS FAILED.

...HEY...UH, LITTLE PIPER? CAN I SEE MY DOG?
IS THAT WHAT THIS IS? A...DOG? IT IS A TINY BEAST, NOT OF OUR WORLD.
IT IS FUNNY! IT IS SO FUNNY! WHEN IT STICKS OUT ITS TONGUE AND MAKES WET! IT IS LOVE! IT IS WARM AND FUNNY!
YOU'RE NOT LIKE ...DEMONS OR SOMETHING? WHERE IS THIS?
WHAT ARE YOU?
WE LOOK AFTER THE DIVER. WE...ARE NOT YOU. YOU ARE YOU. AND SHE IS HER. THAT IS ALL. AS FAR AS WHERE YOU ARE.
YOU'RE HERE. PRESENT. WITH US. BUT...
YOU ALREADY KNEW THOSE THINGS.

OW!
WHAT THE HELL? DO YOU THINGS NOT KNOW HOW TO HOLD HANDS? JESUS!
IT...IT...IS..S-SORRY. WE W-WE CAN NOT C-CONTROL OUR...THIS DEEP. WE'VE.. NEVER S-SEEN THE DIVER.
WHO IS THE DIVER? LITTLE FRANCES, DO YOU KNOW WHO THE DIVER IS?
OH MY GOD!!!
WHAT'S **HAPPENING**?! WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOU?!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR MY ENTIRE LIFE...JUST WAITING FOR A MOMENT. SOMETIMES I DREAM WHEN I WAIT, AND OTHER TIMES I DON'T AND BEFORE LONG THAT MOMENT PASSES.
THE ONE I WAS WAITING FOR, AND IT'S GONE AND I START OVER.

Y-YOU MUST SE...SEEK THE DIVER. F-FOR—
WHAT IS THIS!? WHAT IS HAPPENING?! WHY DID YOU SAY THOSE WORDS?!
WHERE IS SHE!?
Y-YOU MUST ...BE WITH THE DIVER.
FOREVER.
GO TO HER.

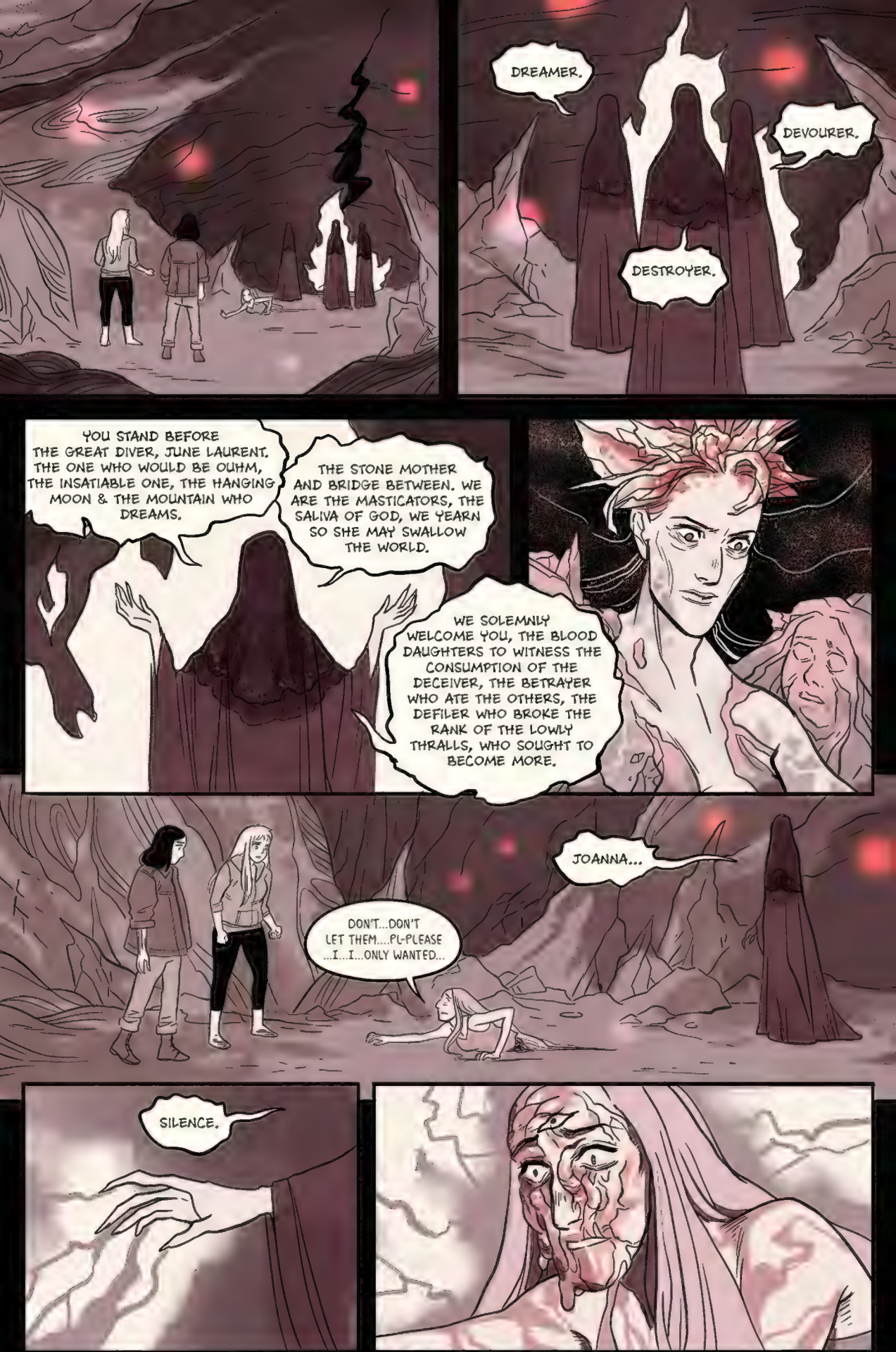
I...I THINK I'M NUMB TO FEELING ANYTHING AT ALL. WHAT JUST HAPPENED DOESN'T EVEN REGISTER.
I GUESS LET'S JUST JUMP INTO ANOTHER GODDAMN HOLE..
WELL, HOLD ON. WAIT...
POCKETS MAKES ME FEEL OK, JUST A LITTLE. THAT'S ALL WE NEED.
YEAH, SO... HE'S COMING WITH US?
HMM...
WHAT'S UP?
HE CAN'T COME WITH US. HE'S WORTHLESS. HE'S CUTE, BUT HE'S JUST...WORTHLESS.
GO. TAKE HIM HOME. TAKE HIM SOMEWHERE SAFE. PLEASE, FRANCES, I'M BEGGING YOU. PLEASE, LET ME DO THIS.
WHAT? I'M NOT LEAVING YOU! ARE YOU CRAZY! AFTER EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN THROUGH?! AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE BEEN THROUGH! JUST...
OKAY...POCKETS, I NEED YOU TO LISTEN TO ME. GO OUTSIDE, SIT AND STAY. PLEASE, PLEASE, DO THIS FOR ME.
OH. DANG ...HE ACTUALLY LISTENED.

huff

READY?
MORE OR LESS.

THUD
...UHHH — UGHHH... WE'VE...GOT TO STOP... *OUCH* FALLING DOWN HOLES...
I THINK MY ARM IS BROKEN.
...WE'RE ALIVE THOUGH...FRANCES, YOU OKAY?
I CUT MY HEAD ON A ROCK AND MY FEET ARE TOTALLY FUCKED BUT...
I'M GOOD.
HEY, FRANCES?
YEAH?
NOTHING. I'M JUST SCARED.
ME TOO.
...M-M-MOM?

5 OUR MOTHER THE MOUNTAIN


DREAMER.
DEVOURER.
DESTROYER.
YOU STAND BEFORE THE GREAT DIVER, JUNE LAURENT. THE ONE WHO WOULD BE OUHM, THE INSATIABLE ONE, THE HANGING MOON & THE MOUNTAIN WHO DREAMS.
THE STONE MOTHER AND BRIDGE BETWEEN. WE ARE THE MASTICATORS, THE SALIVA OF GOD, WE YEARN SO SHE MAY SWALLOW THE WORLD.
WE SOLEMNLY WELCOME YOU, THE BLOOD DAUGHTERS TO WITNESS THE CONSUMPTION OF THE DECEIVER, THE BETRAYER WHO ATE THE OTHERS, THE DEFILER WHO BROKE THE RANK OF THE LOWLY THRALLS, WHO SOUGHT TO BECOME MORE.
JOANNA...
DON'T...DON'T LET THEM....PL-PLEASE ...I...I...ONLY WANTED...
SILENCE.

YOU, THE BLOOD DAUGHTERS OF OUHM, HAVE BEEN BROUGHT HERE TO DELIVER FINAL JUDGEMENT TO THE DECEIVER.
THIS WRETCH DEFILED THIS SACRED PLACE AND THROUGH THE RITES OF THE HANGING MOON, MUST BE DELIVERED BY THOSE SHE SOUGHT TO DEFILE.
SPEAK YOUR JUDGEMENT.
NO. WE'RE NOT ANY OF THIS. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE, OR WHAT THIS IS BUT HANGING UP THERE IS MY MOM.
THE WOMAN WHO GAVE BIRTH TO ME AND RAISED ME AND MY SISTER. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT DIVINE JUDGEMENT OR...ANY OF THIS. I JUST...
I WANT TO KNOW WHY. WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?! WHY DID SHE ABANDON US?
JOANNA! WHY DID YOU DO THIS?! WHY US?! WHY OUR MOM?!
SHE...WAS A GOOD PERSON UNTIL...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBL

NO! NOOOO!
NOOOO
CRUNCH
TH...THIS... ISN'T REAL...
OH GOD... NO...

WHERE-WHERE AM I...? WHAT...? WHAT IS...? HELP! HELP ME! HELP ME! OH GOD!
PLEASE! WHERE AM... I...? I'M...I'M...
WHO...AM ...I...WHO...?
WHO ARE THEY? WHO ARE YOU? WHAT HAVE...HAVE YOU DONE?
I KNOW THEM... I KNOW THEM...
I'VE SEEN THEM AND...
THEY'VE COME TO TAKE ME AWAY! TO TAKE ME AWAY FROM MY CHILDREN!!!
YOU CAN'T LET THEM. YOU CAN'T LET THEM TAKE MEEEE!!!

YEH-HAH-SHU-AH.
YEH-HAH-SHU-AH.
YEHHOH-VAH-SHAH.
YEHHOH-VAH-SHAH.
...JUNE LAURENT! NO! WE'RE...WE'RE YOUR CHILDREN! PLEASE! WHY CAN'T YOU REMEMBER?!
PIPES...WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE...I DON'T THINK THIS IS GOING THE WAY WE PLANNED...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
I...I...REMEMBER! I REMEMBER YOU! WHAT YOU WERE LIKE BEFORE! BEFORE YOU WERE SICK, AND IT'S...IT'S OKAY! JUST, I CAN'T BLAME YOU.
I CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID! WHAT YOU TRIED TO DO. IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT. IT WASN'T IN ANYONE'S CONTROL. YOU...
...NEEDED HELP...AND NO ONE CARED.
P-PP... F-FFRA...

SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER US, PIPER. SHE CAN'T REMEMBER.
SHE'S CLOSE! SHE'S GOING TO REMEMBER!
WE'LL ALWAYS LOVE WHO YOU WERE! WE'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT! YOU'LL NEVER BE THIS. YOU'LL NEVER BE WHATEVER YOU BECAME!
KNOW THAT YOU'LL LIVE ON FOREVER AS A MEMORY AND THAT WE WILL ALWAYS GRIEVE FOR YOU.
WE HAVE TO LEAVE! WE'RE GOING TO DIE!
PIPER!
MOM!
MOM...
MOM...
MOOUHHM.
MOOOUUUUHHHMM.
OOOUUHHM...OUHM..
OOOOUUHHHMMM

OOOOOOUUUUUHHHHMMMM
VOID DREAMER!
DARK DIVER!
DELIVER US!
PIPER! LET'S GO!!!

SHE WAS GONE. GONE FOREVER.
JUNE LAURENT BURIED UNDER A MOUNTAIN,
ALONG WITH EVERYTHING SHE EVER KNEW.

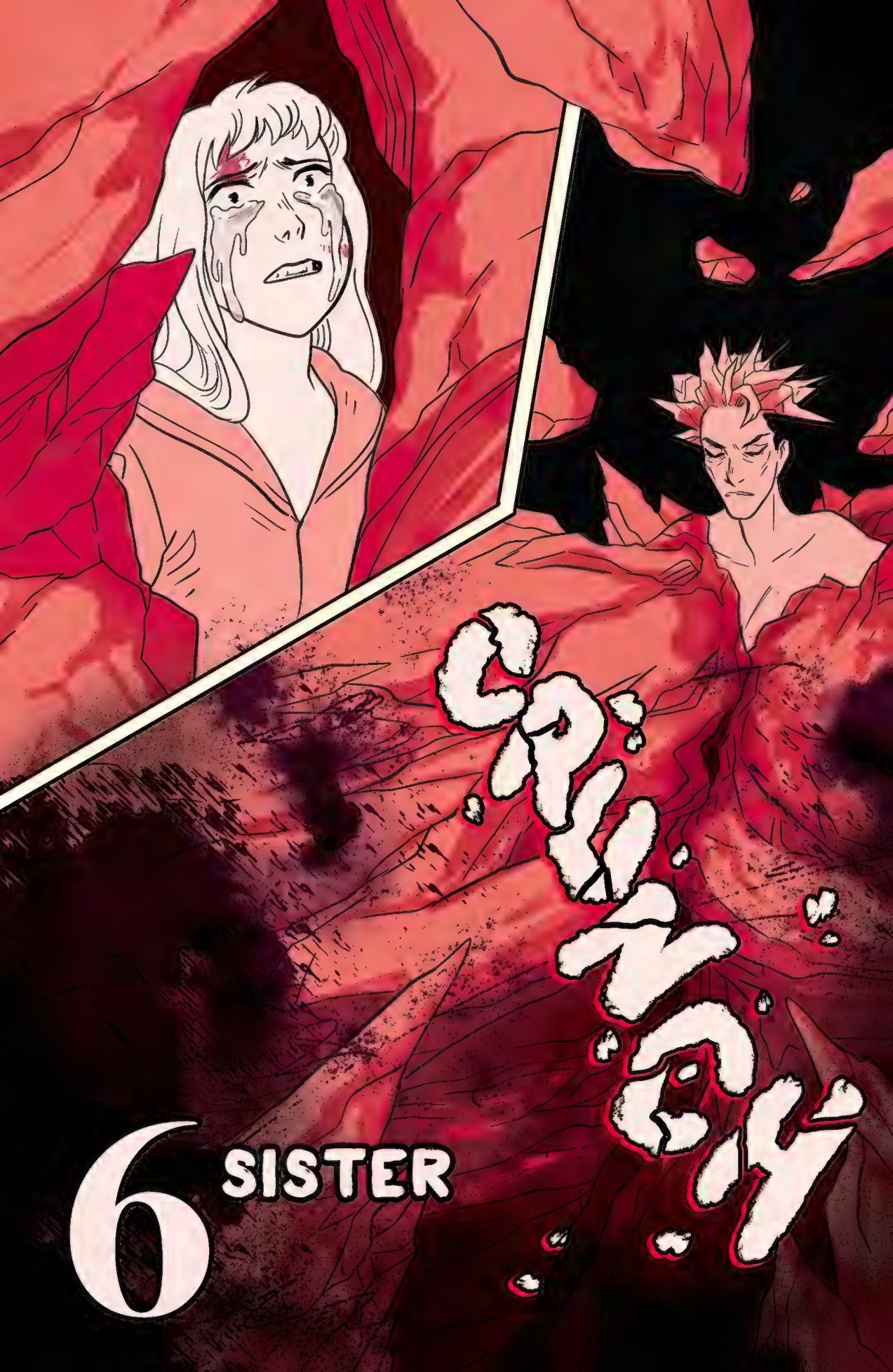
THERE'S A CRACK IN THE WALL! FOLLOW ME!!
GO FASTER, YOU FUCKIN' ASSHOLE! FASTER! SHE'S COMING!
AAAHHHHH HHHHHH!!
GRAB MY HAND! COME ON!
I...CAN'T ...SLIP...THROUGH— THE ROCKS!
I WON'T STOP. YOU HAVE TO. YOU HAVE TO REACH, PIPER. YOU HAVE TO. PIPER, YOU HAVE TO. PLEASE, PIPER, I NEED YOU!
PULL ME THRO—

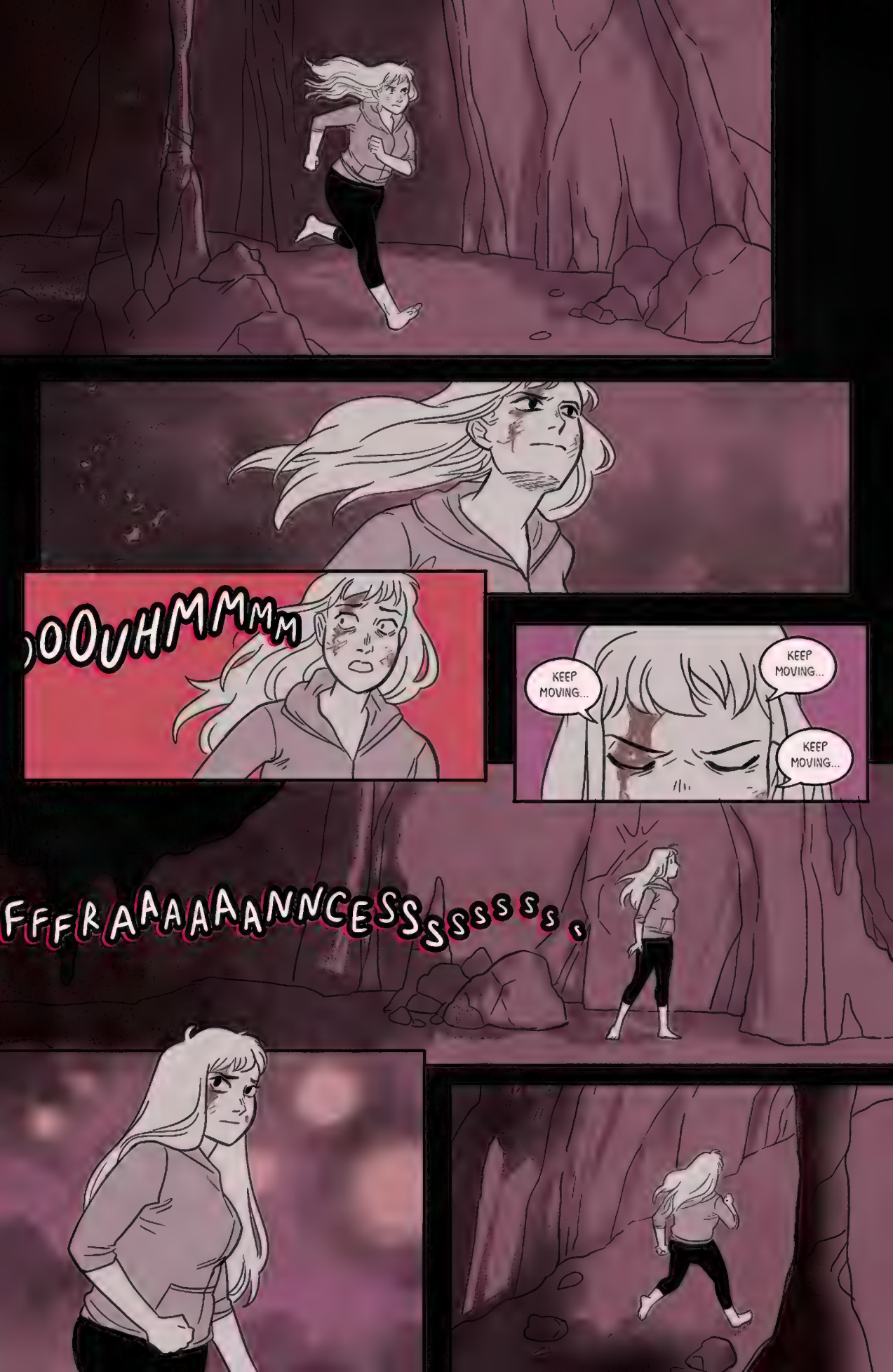
NO! NO, PIPER! NO! STOP, PLEASE! NO! COME BACK.
LEAVE HER ALONE. LET HER COME BACK TO ME. LET HER BACK!
I WILL NOT GIVE UP. WE ARE OUR MOTHER'S DAUGHTER.
I AM MY SISTER'S SISTER, BUT I AM NOT WEAK OR FRAIL.
I AM NOT NOTHING. I EXIST.
I'M A SPECK OF HURT IN A VAST OCEAN, BUT I AM NOT AN EMPTY BOAT.
I'M NOT ALONE ON THAT ENDLESS SEA. TOGETHER WE ARE DRIFTING TOWARDS SOMETHING THAT ISN'T THERE, BUT I AM HERE. I AM HERE.

HI, MOM.
I KNOW WE HAVEN'T TALKED IN A LONG TIME. SORTA.
I JUST WANT TO TELL YOU THAT I KNOW WHO YOU WERE.
I LOVED HER.
I MISS HER SO MUCH. WHOEVER YOU ARE NOW, YOU'RE NOT FORGOTTEN.
YOU ARE JUNE LAURENT, ALWAYS AND FOREVER MY MOTHER.
HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY.
NO!
NO!
NOO!
NOOO

CHAPTER
SIX

PIPER?
PIPER, YOU DON'T HAVE TO LEAVE.
PLEASE, I DON'T WANT YOU TO LEAVE!
PIPER...
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MY...


SPIN-OFF
6
SISTER

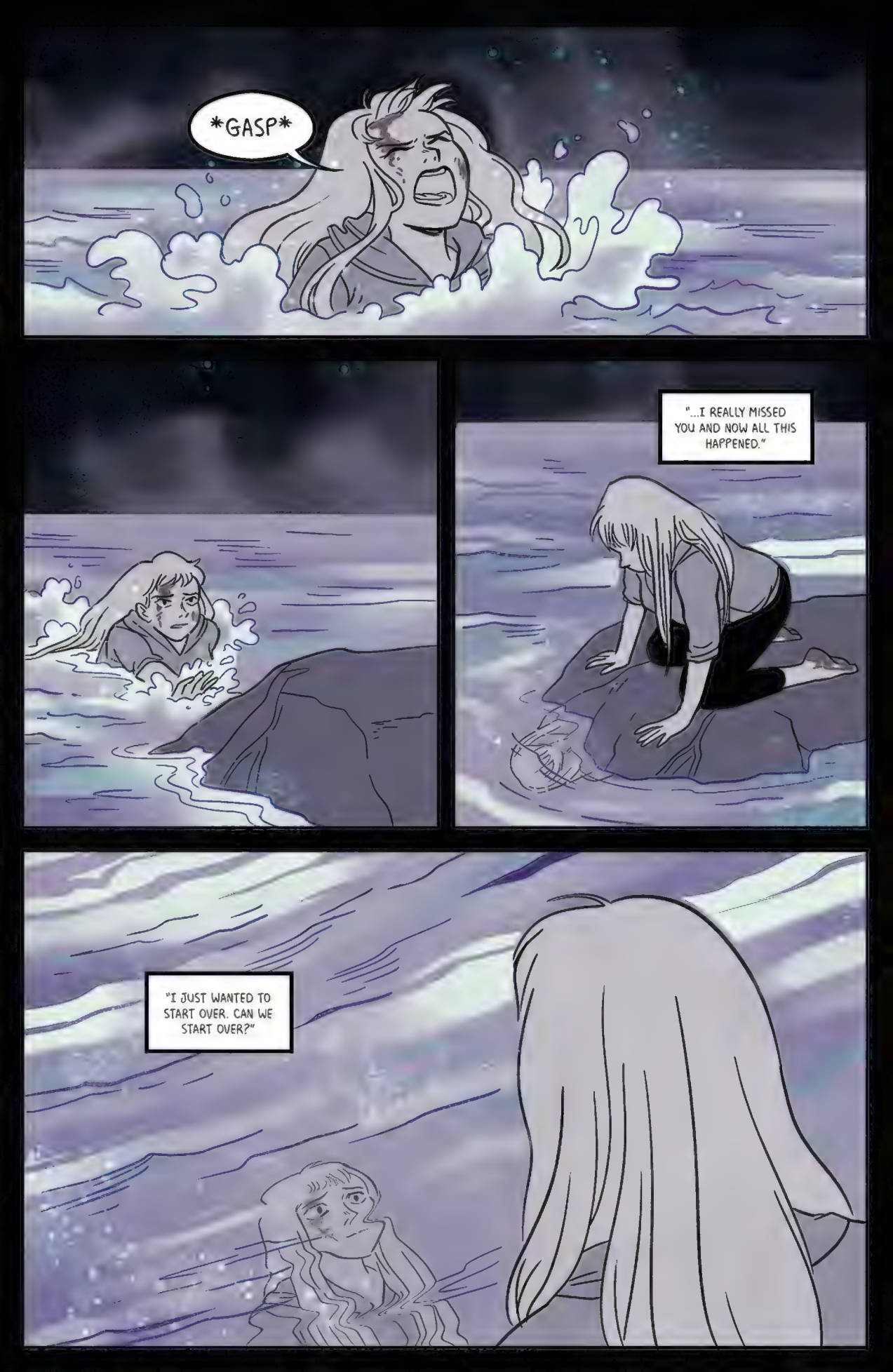

OOUHMMMM
KEEP MOVING...
KEEP MOVING...
KEEP MOVING...
FFFRAAAAAANNCESSSSSSS.

whhsshss
splshh
splshh
plnkk
plnk
plink

"IT WOULD BE NICE TO FEEL LIKE YOU...NEED ME?"
"...TO BE ABLE TO SAY I'M FRIENDS WITH MY..."
HAZEL LANDING
"...FRIENDS WITH MY SISTER..."

"IT'S A GIFT. I BOUGHT IT FOR YOU..."
"HMMPH, MAYBE WE SHOULD'VE..."
"...BURNED THIS PLACE DOWN."

"I'M...BOTHERED, BUT I'M HERE WITH YOU. SO IT DOESN'T MATTER. THAT'S WHAT'S IMPORTANT."
"THAT'S WHAT'S IMPORTANT..."
"IMPORTANT..."

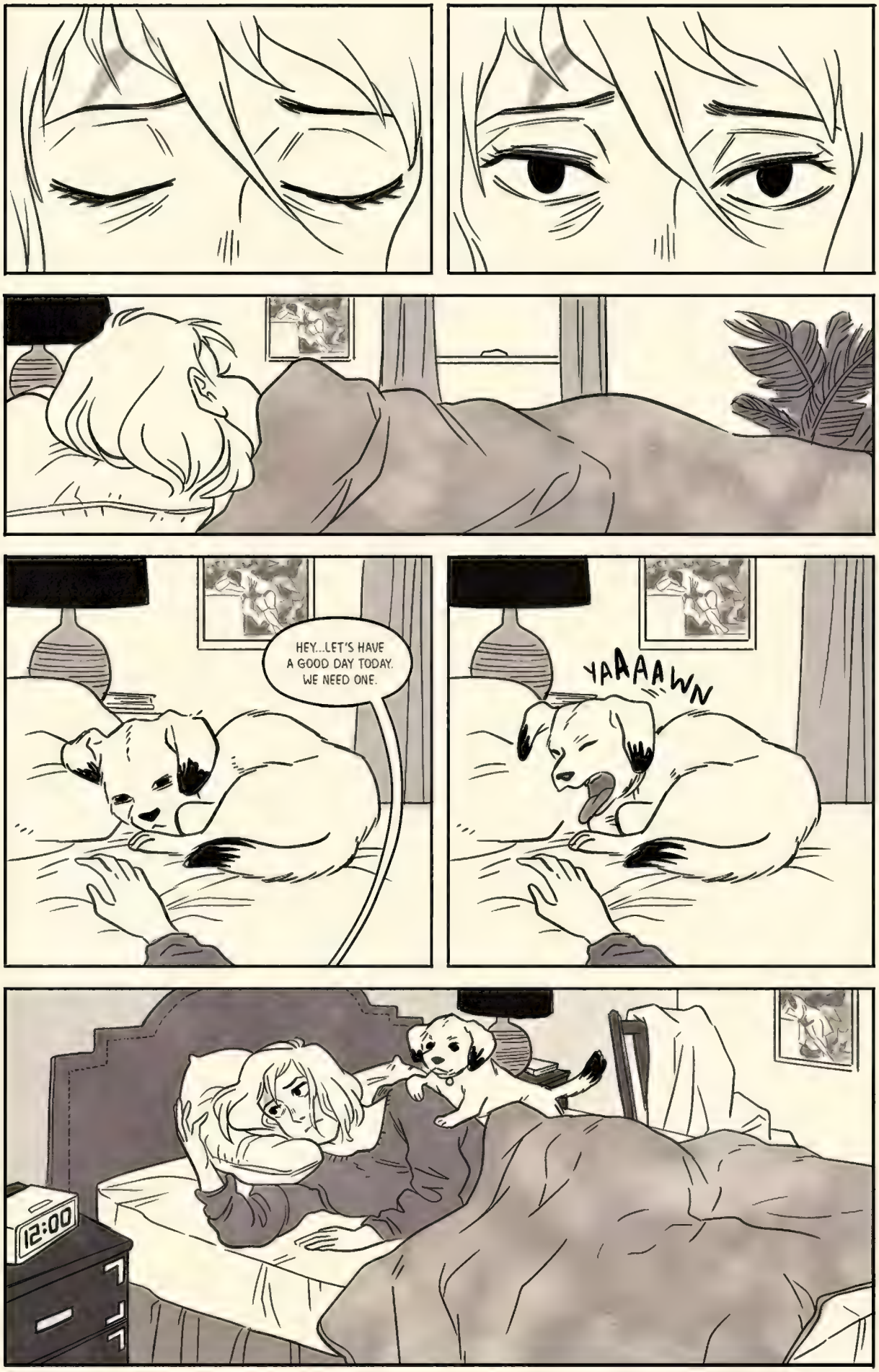

GASP
"...I REALLY MISSED YOU AND NOW ALL THIS HAPPENED."
"I JUST WANTED TO START OVER. CAN WE START OVER?"

START OVER...
"I'M LOST, PIPER. I WASN'T AND NOW I AM. I NEED YOU TO HELP ME. FOR ONCE."
"I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO BE THIS WAY. I'M STRONG. I'M SUPPOSED TO BE STRONG."

YOU LEFT ME HERE IN HAZEL PATCH... BY MYSELF...
EVERYONE IS GONE AND THIS IS IT. THIS IS ALL THAT REMAINS OF OUR PAST... OF OUR CHILDHOOD...
...OF EVERYTHING.

woof!
HHE...HELP...

SEVERAL MONTHS LATER...

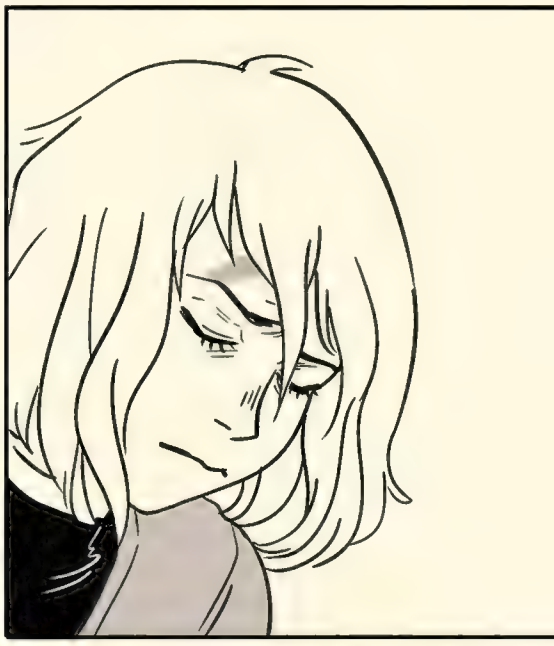

HEY...LET'S HAVE A GOOD DAY TODAY. WE NEED ONE.
YAAAAWN
12:00

GO TO THE BATHROOM...
YAAAWNNN
GO!
MAIL
ORIENTATION
COME ON.

HMMM...IT SAYS I NEED TO WEAR SOMETHING NICE.
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING NICE, I DON'T THINK...
I REALLY DON'T THINK I AM GOING TO FIND ANYTHING SUITABLE. HALF THIS STUFF HASN'T EVEN BEEN WAS—
...WASHED.

COME ON

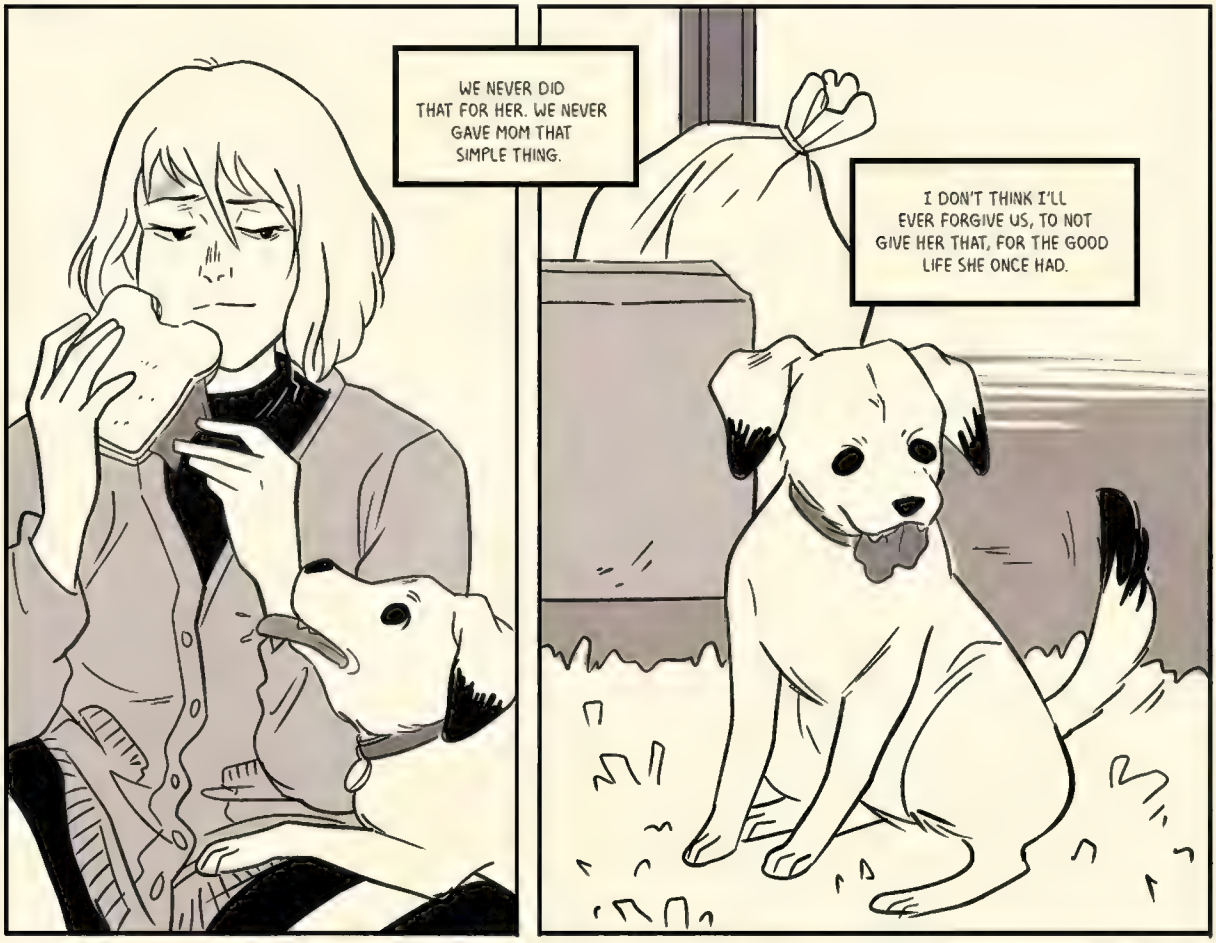
THIS IS MORE THAN I COULD HAVE EVER HANDLED. MORE THAN I EVER THOUGHT WAS POSSIBLE TO FEEL.



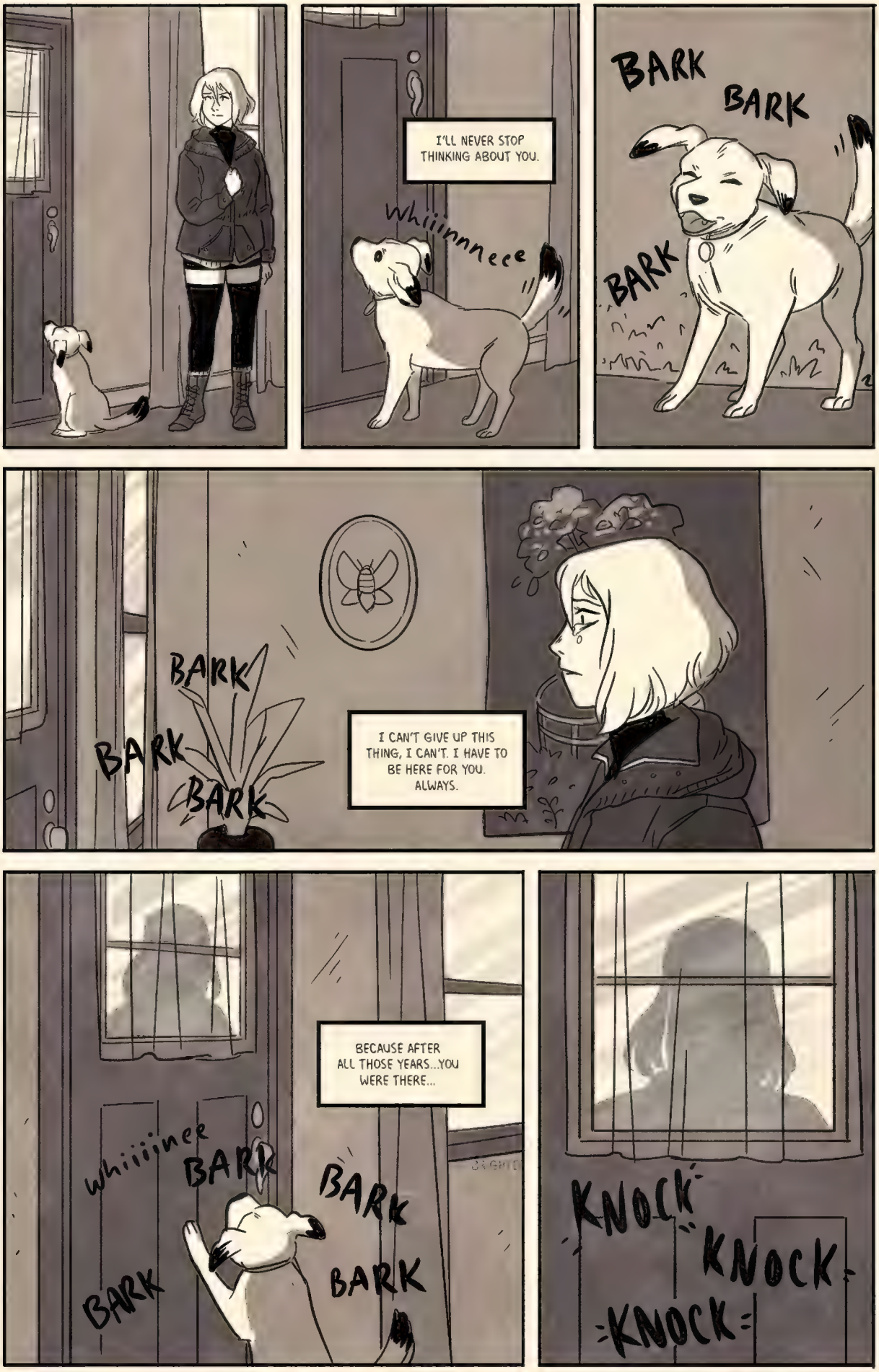
SOMETIMES I HOLD MY OWN HAND AND PRETEND IT IS HERS.

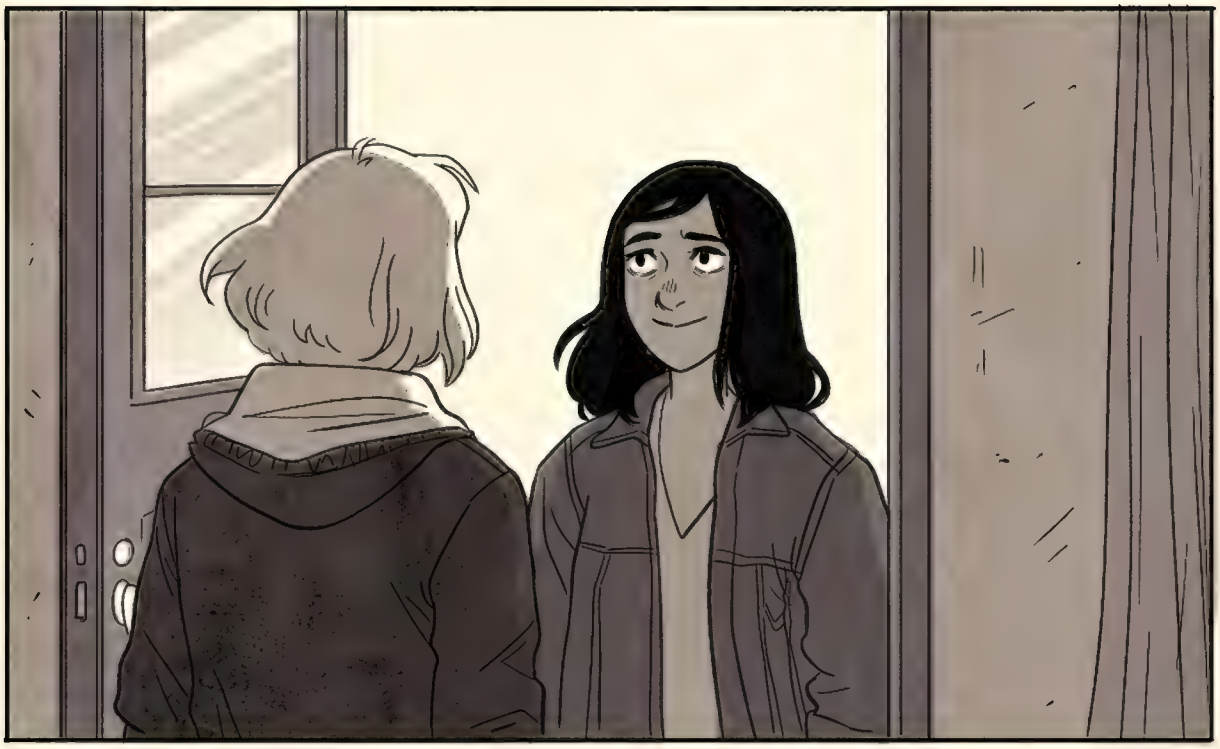
I SLEEP MOST DAYS AND MAKE TIME FOR THE DOG, BUT I CAN'T FORGET. ALL THOSE COLORS AND SHAPES...MY FAMILY.
I WONDER WHERE I'LL GO WHEN I DIE? IF I'LL SEE ANY OF THEM? IF THERE IS A PLACE WHERE EVERYTHING IS OKAY?
I HOPE THINGS ARE BRIGHTER THERE.

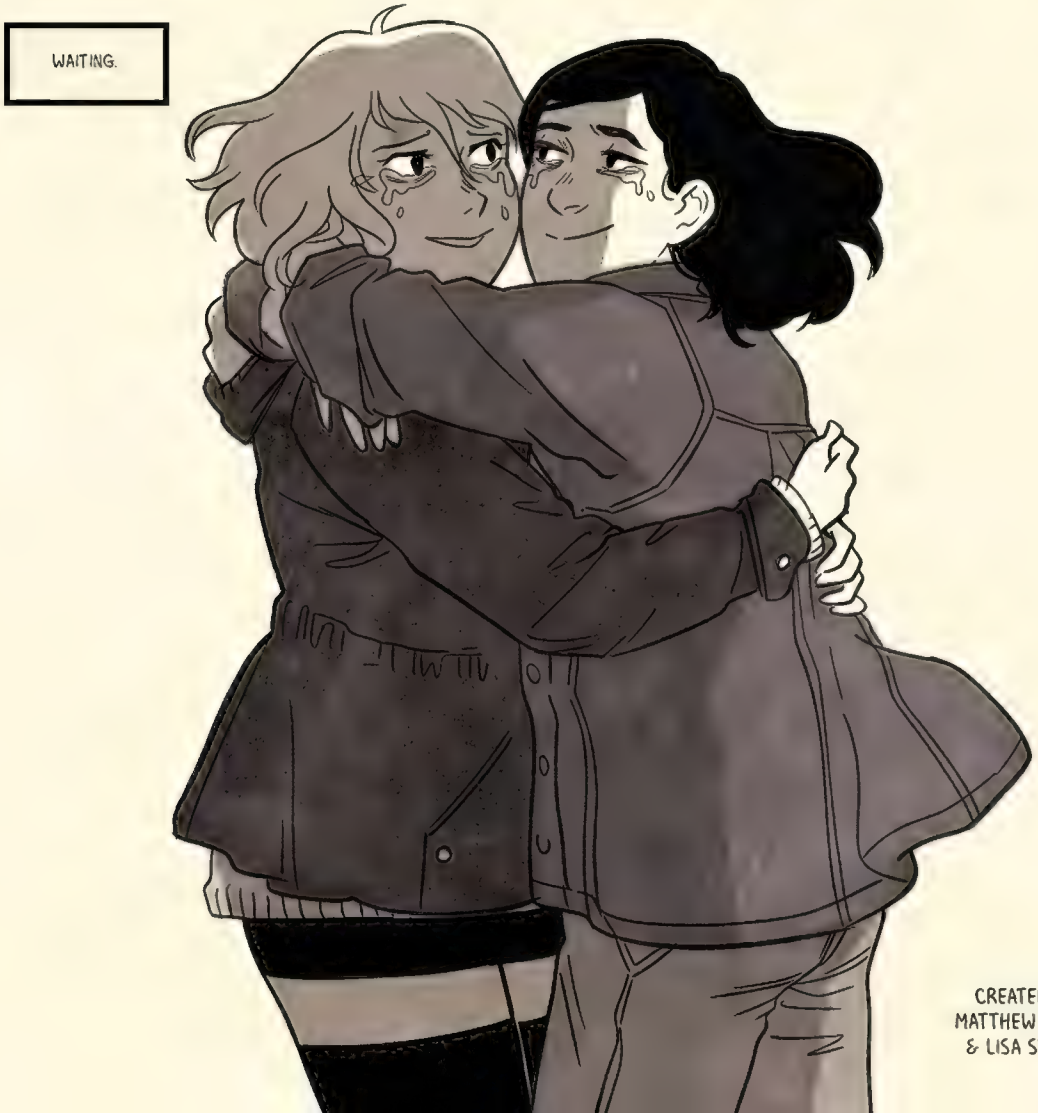
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I LEARNED. IF I LEARNED ANYTHING. THAT...THINGS ARE HARD AND UNFAIR.
PEOPLE VANISH AND SOMETIMES YOU'RE THE THE ONE LEFT, TASKED WITH REMEMBERING THEM FOR A SHORT WHILE. REMEMBERING WHO THEY WERE BEFORE THEY LEFT.


WE NEVER DID THAT FOR HER. WE NEVER GAVE MOM THAT SIMPLE THING.
I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER FORGIVE US, TO NOT GIVE HER THAT, FOR THE GOOD LIFE SHE ONCE HAD.

I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD END UP LIKE THIS, ALL THAT LOVE I FELT OR...WARMTH. I'M SAD FOR MYSELF BECAUSE I KNEW HOW I USED TO BE.
I USED TO BE SO MUCH STRONGER.
I SEE YOU. SOMETIMES. ALL THE TIME. I SEE YOU AND YOU'RE ALIVE. IT HURTS SO MUCH.
IT FEELS LIKE MY HEART IS OPEN AND SPILLING OUT FROM ME.
I CAN'T STAND IT.
IT'S SO LONELY WITHOUT YOU.
MAIL


I'LL NEVER STOP THINKING ABOUT YOU.
Whiiinnnece
BARK
BARK
BARK
BARK
BARK
BARK
I CAN'T GIVE UP THIS THING, I CAN'T. I HAVE TO BE HERE FOR YOU. ALWAYS.
BECAUSE AFTER ALL THOSE YEARS...YOU WERE THERE...
Whiiiiner
BARK
BARK
BARK
BARK
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK





CREATED BY
MATTHEW ERMAN
& LISA STERLE

ON THE END OF LONG LOST

Hello. It is I, Matthew Erman. The writer and co-creator of Long Lost. My wife, Lisa Sterle, is the other half of the book. The art part. Arguably the better part. But that's not why I'm writing this. I'm writing this to say thank you. Thank you for proving that the comics community, the readers, the shops, the editors and everyone that makes books or cares to read them are beautiful, supportive people.

Two years ago at the beginning of 2017, Lisa and I signed a contract with Scout Comics after their impressive commitment to our book which we never thought would see the light of day. Our book wasn't anything like I'd ever seen on the shelves — monochromatic, slice-of-life with a slow burn? We wanted 12 issues and now, thinking back to that — we were insane. Literally insane to ask for a 12 issue monthly comic series as our first published work. We had no idea what door we were walking through.

Lisa started in earnest working on Long Lost in January of 2017, and now two years later the journey of Piper and Frances is over, for everyone. For everyone that followed along as our book came out every month, we could not thank you enough. You made us feel successful, and beautiful and like our hard work had landed somewhere meaningful. That the story of two sisters trying to figure out how best to marry their pasts with their present would resonate is...the most wonderful thing we could've wished for; we are forever in the debt of those who believed in us and our story.

I finished writing this story back in 2018, and the characters live with me. I'd never cried after finishing something of my own making — and it wasn't because I thought the ending was so good (I do) but because I was leaving friends behind. I love Piper and Frances, they are a part of me and I hope they are a part of you. I hope you found guidance or meaning or warmth or beauty in their journey. I did.

I was diagnosed with depression while I was writing Long Lost. I was grappling with anxiety, fear of an impending meeting with the void and the unease that what I was doing wasn't enough. I still have those feelings. I'll always have those feelings, but because of Piper and Frances — I made it through emotionally complex and difficult times. Times when I should have been celebrating my small successes I was worried that I was failing.

Everyone fails. Everyone dies. Everyone lives and loves and moves through their live. Sometimes the past, your anxieties, your troubles or your fears will find you and when they do know that it is a just a moment, and then it's gone.

Just here for the free food,
Matthew

LISA STERLE
Artist

Lisa Sterle is a Columbus artist with work spanning from comic books to concept design to pop-culture-fueled illustration. *Long Lost* is her comic book debut, and she has the joy of working on it alongside her husband and co-creator Matthew. It will surely be only the first of many fruitful collaborations. When she is not creating comics, she' s keeping her many houseplants healthy, and studying tarot for the development of a modern interpretation of the classic Rider-Waite tarot deck.

MATTEW ERMAN
Writer

Matthew Erman is a Columbus comic writer, 2018 5x5 Ghost City Comic Finalist, and allegedly a pretty alright guy. *Long Lost* is his comic debut along with wife and co-creator, Lisa Sterle. When he isn't compulsively checking the internet for mentions of his name like a total obsessive narcissist, he is probably cooking, playing with a dog (co-owned by Lisa Sterle) or enjoying some kind of alcoholic drink over video games. He has upcoming work in the successfully funded *CORPUS Anthology* and *Everything is Going Wrong* anthology along with unannounced projects for 2019. He is a lifelong advocate for getting 'totally buck wild' from time-to-time.

DR. VINK

WITH A VA-VA-VA

A Dr. Vink Poor Man's Rip

~ Rippin poorly since May 2022 ~

LIBRARY LOANS THROUGH HOOPLA + OVERDRIVE
COMIXOLOGY / AMAZON PRIME READING + KINDLE

RIPPED WITH CALIBRE DeDRM AND AI UPSCALED WITH WAIFU2X-CAFFE

I CAN'T LOOK AT THE EYE ANY-MORE! HELP! AIEEEEE!
SEVERAL OF JOHNATHAN BARKLEY'S NEIGHBORS CLAIMED THAT AT EXACTLY 7:16 P.M. THEY HEARD A TERRIBLE SCREAM EMENATING FROM BARKLEY'S LIBRARY, BUT, OFCOURSE, THEY HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING WHO HAD SCREAMED OR WHAT HAD CAUSED THE FRIGHTFUL OUTCRY.
HELLO, HOWARD!
JOHNATHAN! NO! NO! AAAAGH!
THE END
...NOW ALL IS PEACEFUL IN SPRINGFIELD... FOR THERE IS NO MORE GOSSIP... THEY HAVE LEARNED THAT THOU SHALT... HEAR NO EVIL... SEE NO EVIL... SPEAK NO EVIL!
The End

...AND I AM NOT A NUT BAG

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IF YOU LIKE ME

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